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WHOSE BRIGHT IDEA WAS THIS?



THOUSANDS of road sign lights are wasting electricity by being left on throughout the daytime, despite claims from Southend Council that it is running as efficiently as it possibly can.

You have highlighted numerous instances of wastage emanating from the Civic Centre that, if halted, could help to save services and people's jobs. Turn to pages 6 & 7 for more examples.

INSIDE

this week



Signs of the times – do we really need so many?

pages 6&7

Yellow Advertiser

**Yellow Advertiser Ltd,
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Beat bad weather with an emergency car kit

WE have already battled with snow, rain and ice over the last couple of months, so who knows what's around the corner before we reach the spring.

Snow brought the country to a standstill in the run-up to Christmas and floods left roads impassable in the New Year when heavy rainfall fell on already saturated ground.

It could all happen again before we reach the spring, and here at Carcraft - the UK's leading used car supermarket - we want you to be safe on the roads during harsh weather.

So if you are unfortunate enough to get stuck in the snow or find yourself stranded in the final weeks of winter, we have the perfect gift for you - our winter car survival kit.

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For your chance to win one of 15 winter car survival kits, worth £35 each, just answer the following question:

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Lines close on Thursday, February 17. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but you may still be charged.

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Tides**High tide at Southend Pier:**

**Thurs: 00.32 5.4m 12.57
5.6m Fri: 01.10 5.5m 13.34
5.6m Sat: 01.42 5.6m 14.06
5.6m Sun: 02.11 5.6m 14.35
5.6m Mon: 02.41 5.6m 15.06
5.5m Tues: 03.11 5.5m 15.36
5.4m Wed: 03.40 5.4m 16.08
5.2m**

Disabled woman is left to sleep in a chair by council

EXCLUSIVE by Karen Davis

A YOUNG disabled woman is having to live in a tiny space and sleep on a chair because Southend Council claims it cannot re-home her.

In 2009 Natasha Ratcliff was diagnosed with ME/CFS – a severe illness that can leave sufferers totally debilitated.

She was forced to leave her job as a full-time nursery nurse and her partner Nicholas Wonnacott, 20, had to give up his position working in a warehouse to take care of her.

The couple currently live in Herongate, Shoebury, in a one-up-one down property.

However, because of her condition, 21-year-old Natasha is no longer able to use the stairs and because the downstairs space is only 10ft by 11ft, a bed will not fit.

Instead, she has had to sleep on a reclining chair each night for more than a year, as well as washing in the kitchen sink and using a commode.

The space she lives in includes the kitchen so her commode is less than a foot away from the fridge.

"We are at our wit's end," Nicholas said. "Natasha can't get out because there is a one foot drop at each exit and despite our pleas we have only been moved up to band B, we just don't know where to turn."

Southend Council's corporate director for adult social care, health and housing, Simon Leftley, said steps were being taken to help Natasha.

"We are fully aware of the needs of this family and have been working closely with them and other services to resolve their housing need as soon as possible," he said.

"This has already resulted in them being moved up to a different housing band, and we are continuing to work very hard on their behalf."



SUFFERING: Natasha Ratcliff and her partner Nicholas Wonnacott are fighting to be housed in an appropriate dwelling.

Picture by Mark Cleveland

What do you think? Write to Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH, or e-mail letters@yellowad.co.uk

Businesses have opportunity to attend networking event

SOUTH Essex Twilight is presenting a networking event at Eastwood School, in Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, on Monday, February 28.

This will be the organisation's second afternoon networking event in

South Essex.

With the 2012 Games approaching, stakeholders will have the opportunity to fully appreciate an Olympic venue in their local community.

The presentation to members will

demonstrate the synergy with Stratford, the Mondo surface and its position in world sport, school links with elite sportsmen/women through to community and disabled provision and provide the opportunity for stake-

holders to be come partners.

Cost is £15.32 for members, £20.43 for affiliates, £25.53 for non-members. If you would like to attend this event, call 01206 765277 or visit www.essexchambers.co.uk

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Two sailors missing in Portugal

TWO sailors from Southend are missing at sea, presumed dead, off the coast of Portugal.

Glenn Foster, 23, and Chris Hull, 53, were thrown overboard when their yacht capsized in a storm on Saturday.

A third sailor, Chris Brooks, 24, from Rochford, was rescued.

Charity auction

THE EASTWOOD 50+ club are holding a charity auction to funds for Southend Guide Dogs for the Blind.

It will be held at St Davids Church Hall, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, on Thursday, March 3. Viewing is from 1.40pm and the auction starts at 2pm.

The Eastwood 50+ Club is open to men and women over the age of 50.

It meets on the first Thursday of each month at 2pm. For more information call 01702 528252.

Film at theatre

THE Palace Theatre, London Road, Westcliff, will be showing the film Wild Target on Sunday.

The bar opens at 6pm, and the film starts 7.30pm. Admission is £6.

For advance tickets visit www.palacetheatresouthend.co.uk, call the box office on 01702 351135 or pay on the door on the night.

Carnival causes

SOUTHEND Carnival Association is asking charitable organisations who benefit Southend residents to contact them if they are interested in being supported by 2011 Carnival.

In previous years Southend Carnival Week events have enabled the Carnival Association to donate £3,000-4,000 to various organisations including Havens Hospices, the Southend Hospital Strokebusters and Bosom Pals Appeals.

If you are or know of an organisation that might be interested in working with Southend Carnival in 2011, e-mail info@southendcarnival.org.uk



THE DARK SIDE: Late night crime and anti-social behaviour is being reduced in Southend town centre.

Picture by Mark Cleveland

Night crime on the decline

By Karen Davis

POLICE claim that late-night crime and anti-social behaviour is being reduced in Southend town centre.

Local officers, along with partner agencies and licensees, have been working to make the areas surrounding Southend High Street and the seafront safer.

Recorded crime in the centre of town between 6pm and 6am fell by three per cent in 2010, when compared to figures for 2009.

The number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents fell by 17 per cent in the same period.

Local Area Inspector Leigh Norris said: "As a police force, we have continued our business as usual policing of the area throughout the week, including better use of Specials, and we have extra officers between 10pm and 4am on the busier weekend nights, under Operation Magpie (previously Op Backstreet).

"We have also drafted in support from the Mounted Unit and road

policing units to tackle specific issues and our police Licensing Unit have been instrumental in identifying licensed premises needing extra attention from us.

"However it is our work with the other local agencies and support groups, such as Clubwatch, the Night-time Economy Group, Town centre Partnership and SOS Bus that has been pivotal in ensuring a reduction in crime and ASB.

"By sharing information and discussing real solutions to any issues

that arise, it is my hope that we will continue to see a decline in numbers of crimes and ASB incidents in the town centre."

Southend's Executive Councillor for Public Protection and Waste, Tony Cox, said: "This is an excellent demonstration of the success of partnership working, where the combined efforts of a whole range of different agencies have yielded very positive results.

"Congratulations to all involved for helping make Southend even safer."

What do you think? Write to Readers' Letters, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH, or e-mail letters@yellowad.co.uk

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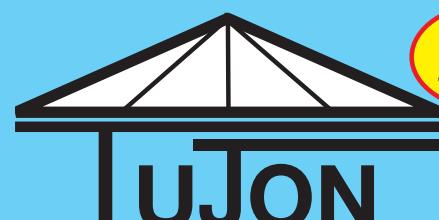


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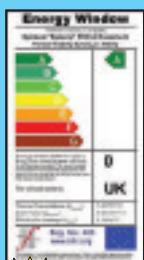
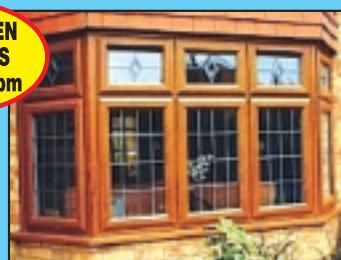


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Take an Olympic walk

GET into the Olympic spirit by joining a series of five free commemorative walks in Southend, Castle Point and Rochford.

This fun activity - suitable for different age groups, abilities and fitness levels, is a joint enterprise between the three authorities and the Essex Legacy Team at Essex County Council.

Participants gain an Essex Legacy badge in a different colour at each of the led walks.

They begin with the one-and-a-half mile Red Walk at 1.15pm tomorrow (Thursday) in Priory Park, Southend. Meet outside the cafe in Priory Park, Victoria Avenue.

The other walks are as follows:

• Green Walk (one-and-three-quarter miles) along Canvey Sea Wall at 10.30am on Wednesday, March 16, meeting at the Labworth Car Park, Canvey seafront.

• Yellow Walk (two-and-a-half miles) in Hockley Woods at 10.45am on Thursday, April 28.

Meet in the Hockley Woods Car Park.

• Blue Walk (four miles) in Hadleigh at 10.30am on Friday, May 20. Meet at the Salvation Army Car Park.

• Black Walk (five miles) in Little Wakering. Meet at Little Wakering Church (the date and time are still to be arranged).

For more details of the walks contact Mark Aldous on 01702 318121 or e-mail mark.aldous@rochford.gov.uk

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Charity bike ride

By Karen Davis

CYCLE Southend officials are saddling up for a charity ride from Cambridge to Shoebury.

Programme manager Neil Hoskins and his colleague Sara Hadden are raising funds for the British Heart Foundation.

The ride will start at Cambridge and finish at East Beach in Shoebury and anyone can still enter.

To sign up for the Cam to Coast bike ride go to www.bhf.org.uk/camtocoast

In preparation for the event on Saturday,

March 26, Cycle Southend has put together seven training rides to help you get fit.

Visit www.cyclesouthend.co.uk or call 07826 896018 if internet access is not available.

You can even organise your own 'Back in the Saddle' ride for your work place, school or for a group of friends.

Simply call the Bike Squad today on 01702 215003 (ext 5338) - and they will help you get started.

CHARITY RIDE: Neil Hoskins and Sara Hadden on their bikes.

Picture by Mark Cleveland



Councillor donates to Re-Cycle project



A SOUTHEND councillor is the latest person to donate a retired bicycle for rejuvenation.

Ric Morgan presented the bike to the Re-Cycle Centre in Brunel Road, Eastwood, last week, where it will be repaired and fully serviced, before being sold on at low cost.

The Re-Cycle Centre re-routes bikes from the scrap heap and turns them back into very affordable means of transport.

More volunteers are needed. Contact Cycle Southend at 01702-215003 extension 5338 or visit www.cyclesouthend.co.uk to offer your services or to find out more.

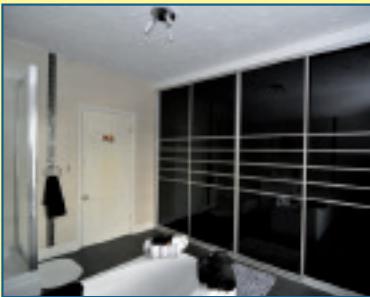
SADDLE UP: Councillor, Mark Flewitt, Cyle Southend's Richard Twoomey and Councillor Ric Morgan at the Re-cycle centre in Eastwood.

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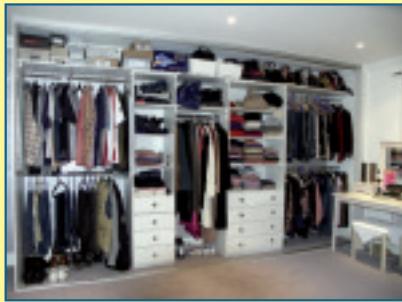


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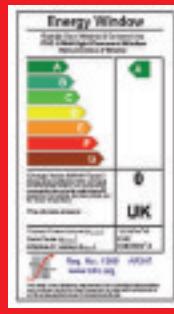
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Special report: Council Cuts

By Karen Davis

Suggestions for savings

CRAZY traffic signs, thousands of lights left on during daytime and schools wasting ink and paper are among readers' complaints about council efficiency this week.

Yellow Advertiser has once again been inundated with more readers' suggestions on how Southend Council can save money.

The authority will shed 178 job posts as part of an effort

to save £15.5million through budget cuts. Council leader Nigel Holdcroft insists there are proposals to make services more efficient. But he claims the council is as 'efficient as it could be.'

New traffic lights deemed 'pointless'

DRIVERS claim 27 traffic lights installed at the Cuckoo Corner junction on Wednesday are excessive.

The lights were turned on for the first time at lunchtime, creating chaos almost immediately.

Mark Sharp, a member of environmental group SKIPP, said: "These lights are pointless."

"Traffic backed up along Priory Crescent, Prince Avenue and Victoria Avenue as soon as the lights were turned on."

"Let's see how long it will be before the council has to admit the lights are a mistake and turn them off," as has

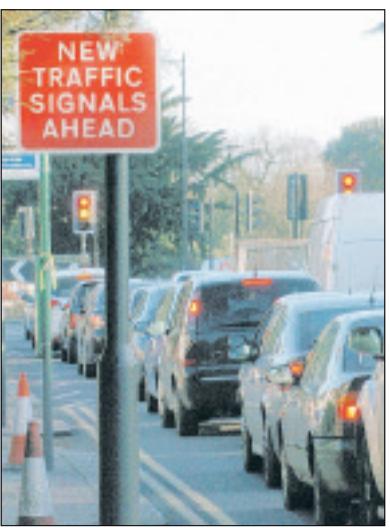
happened in recent years across so many other parts of the country."

A Southend Council spokesman confirmed there were problems, but insisted further work was needed to cut detection loops into the carriageway that will monitor traffic flow and feed information back to the lights.

The council asks carriageway users to be patient while this 'fine tuning' of the lights takes place.

WRONG SIGNALS:
The new traffic signals at are causing concern among residents and drivers.

Picture by Mark Cleveland



Time to sign off

SOUTHEND Council is wasting thousands of pounds each month because its road signs are illuminated by fluorescent lights during the daytime.

Tony Chytry, 56, from Southchurch, launched a one-man crusade last year to get the lights switched off. A collection of his photographed examples are displayed on our front page.

Although Southend Council claims to be 'looking into it', a tour of the borough on Monday revealed they are still burning bright.

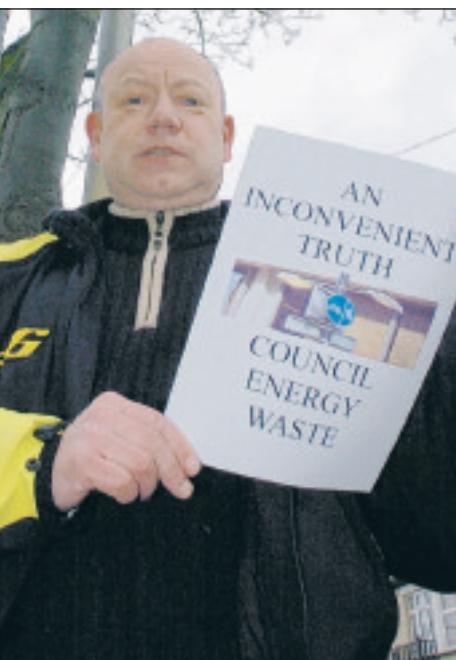
Mr Chytry said: "This is just wasteful incompetence. Savings can be made by simply turning them off."

Common sense dictates that electric circuits have switches, it appears ridiculous that the council has no provision to switch off during the daylight hours."

It is estimated that energy for lighting costs Southend taxpayer about £50,000 per month.

NOT A GOOD SIGN: Tony Chytry has contacted Southend Council on numerous occasions regarding the wastage of energy caused by road signs.

Picture by Mark Cleveland



What do you think? Write to Readers' Letters, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH, or e-mail letters@yellowad.co.uk

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■ Special report: Council Cuts

By Karen Davis

School savings

YELLOW Advertiser has received letters on how schools can save taxpayers more cash. Everyone from cleaners to deputy heads (no headteachers yet) have had something to say.

Here is the top five money saving suggestions.

1) Paper is being wasted on a large scale by not putting waste in re-cycling bins and pupils using A4 sheets just to doodle on.

2) Printers being over-used, and used for unnecessary, sometimes non-school related printing. The average price of industrial ink is £10.30 per litre – 10 times the cost of petrol.

3) Stationery such as pens and pencils in good condition being thrown away.

4) Musical instruments are being misused or damaged, and sometimes even lost – without parents being asked to repair or replace.

5) Proper records not being kept of IT and musical equipment loaned out to pupils and staff. Too much goes missing because responsible checks are not in place.

Costly crazy signs

POINTLESS road signs are costing tax payers thousands of pounds.

Among the most glaring examples this week are warnings of a weak bridge in Willingale Way, Thorpe Bay. Two huge, lit signs sit just feet apart, when one would have done the job.

In another instance, a sign tells drivers of upcoming traffic signals near Harcourt Avenue, Southend. The warning is just a few feet away from the signal itself – and almost obscures it from drivers' view.

■ *Have you seen a crazy or unnecessarily large sign? E-mail us a photograph or the location of the sign to southend@yellowad.co.uk and we will feature it next week.*

POINTLESS: Signs are being installed unnecessarily.

Picture by Mark Cleveland



Top 5 readers' suggestions this week:

- 1) The number of councillors in each ward should be cut from three to two.
- 2) Amalgamate Rochford and Castle Point Councils into Southend Council making big savings.
- 3) Suspend the publication of Glossy Outlook magazine until debts have been paid off, possibly saving about £200,000.
- 4) More vigorous measures taken to recover unpaid Council Tax.
- 5) Less use of highly paid agency staff to cover periods such as maternity leave.

Businessman speaks of desire to buy Pier

By Jenny Green

SOUTHEND'S best-known businessman has reiterated his desire to buy the town's famous Pier.

Philip Miller, who owns Adventure Island and Sea-Life Adventure, has been bidding to take over the landmark for more than a decade.

He was asked to comment in response to calls by several readers that selling off the pier would save more public money being spent on

the structure. Southend Council insisted last week that no private companies or individuals are willing to take over the landmark.

But Mr Miller said: "I've always been interested in the Pier and I've made that quite plain on several occasions.

"The real question is, are the council interested in me?"

Although his investment could save the council millions of pounds, the 55-year-old confirmed there were concerns regarding the maintenance and upkeep of such an ageing structure. He admitted some public subsidy would be needed.

"The pier is a real treasure but it has a lot of liabilities – it's rusting away every minute," he said.

"To turn it into a cash positive investment just isn't going to happen without some sort of subsidy from the council."

Mr Miller believes obstacles to his take-over are more likely to be political than financial.

He claims to be one of Southend

Council's 'biggest critics', although praises councillors for the work they had done to keep the pier alive.

"You have to take your hat off to them, as they've tried as hard as they can," he added.

"When the council has had money, they've spent it wisely – they've redecked the pier, built a new entrance and revamped the lifeboat station, which has all been a big help."

"They just haven't got the revenue to keep it maintained."

Let us know of your examples of council wastage or ideas of how the authority could save money. E-mail southend@yellowad.co.uk or write to Karen Davis, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH

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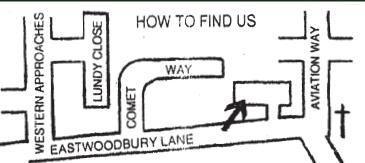
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Pensioner 'insulted' over council reply to fly-tipping

By Karen Davis

A RETIRED man who contacted Southend Council with a case of fly-tipping received a letter from them that he says was both insulting and unclear.

Chas Cheeseman, of The Grove, Southend, thought he was being an upstanding citizen by reporting that a sofa had been dumped in the alley behind his house.

He received a reply that stated: 'Alleyways were originally established to allow coal merchants and other tradesmen to enter properties from the rear but may still be owned by the original builder'.

Mr Cheeseman said: "I felt that they were treating me like a brainless idiot – I am fully aware why alleys were built and also know that the likelihood of the owner being dead is quite high."

It also stated that the owners of the properties that back on to the alley are responsible for moving it.

Mr Cheeseman retaliated: "I am a pensioner on a low income and not physically strong. I'm afraid I just don't know what to do. I can neither lift it myself or pay someone to do it for me."

Southend Council's Street Scene team manager, Karon Grant, insisted it was the responsibility of residents living in properties adjoining private alleyways to ensure that any rubbish dumped in them is cleaned up.



UP YOUR ALLEY: Chas Cheeseman with the sofa that has been dumped in his alley.

Picture by Mark Cleveland

"We always follow up any leads which could help us identify the people responsible for fly-tipping."

"Unfortunately, in the case of large items such as sofas, there are rarely any clues to help us track down the culprits."

With regards to the letter that was sent to Mr Cheeseman she

added: "We apologise to Mr Cheeseman if he feels that the information he received was confusing."

"We are currently reviewing the content of the letters we issue in respect of alleyway maintenance to ensure residents are given clear advice and guidance."

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ARE YOU ARTY? Dave Shields and Jan Simons, organisers of the Essex Art and Design Show, are looking for new talent.
Picture by Mark Cleveland

Call to talented artists

By Karen Davis

THE ORGANISERS of a countywide art and design show are offering free spaces to emerging talent in the area.

Jan Simon and David Shields organise the Essex Art and

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They have long supported creative and artistic talent in the county and the show creates a showcase for quality contemporary art, craft and design.

Work on sale includes paintings, photography, ceramics,

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For more information e-mail events@essexartanddesignshow.co.uk, call 07944 806340 or visit www.essexartanddesignshow.co.uk

Lost property hunter

By Karen Davis



SOUTH Eastern district has a new officer dedicated to tracking down property stolen in burglaries.

Pc Calley Rolls started the role on Tuesday January 4, and covers Southend and Rayleigh districts.

Her role supports Operation Skye, which aims to locate property stolen in burglaries and robberies.

"The main aim of my role is to reunite people with their

stolen property and bring those who stole it to justice," said PC Rolls.

"It is my job to build up a relationship with the second-hand dealers in the area and help them to help us when we are looking for stolen property."

For crime reduction advice visit www.essex.police.uk/crimereduction

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It is believed to be an attempt to trick drivers into providing personal details.

The DVLA has confirmed that this is a scam and advises residents not to respond and to delete it immediately.

For the latest crime updates visit www.southendcdrp.co.uk or follow them on twitter at [@www.twitter.com/southendcdrp](http://www.twitter.com/southendcdrp)

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The day-and-a-half long course costs £14 per person or £13 for Advantage Card holders.

Teen attacked

A TEENAGER was attacked and had his mobile phone stolen on Christmas Day in Southend.

The 18-year-old was walking along Short Street at 2.30am when he was approached by two men.

He was punched and then put in a headlock.

The suspects are described as both white men.

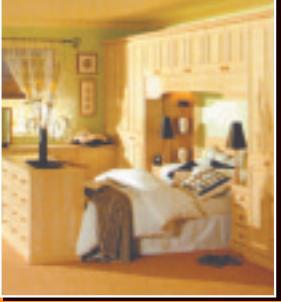
One was in his late 20s, about 5ft 8in tall, average build with very short mousy brown hair with receding hairline. He was wearing a black hooded top and dark trousers.

The second man is in his mid to late twenties, about 6ft 2in tall of large build and bald.

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(Feature)

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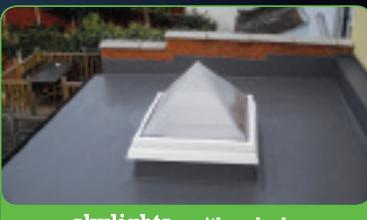
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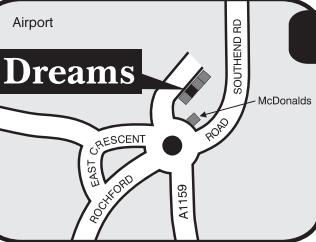
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Improvements begin for civic centre

By Karen Davis

WORK is underway at the Civic Centre to effect a cost-saving initiative which Southend Council hopes will result in more services being accommodated there.

The 13-storey building, in Victoria Avenue, has been the focal point of the authority since it opened in 1967, but due to limited investment the council claims that it is no longer fit for purpose and in urgent need of modernisation.

A 1960s concrete frame building, it has become increasingly costly to run, heat, cool and maintain.

Authorities say that it has reached the stage where the urgent work necessary to bring the centre up to standard can no longer be avoided.

The planned refurbishment is designed to bring about a number of benefits including:

- A major reduction in maintenance and revenue costs.

- Significant cash savings from relocating staff currently based at the council's four other town centre buildings to the Civic Centre.

- A more user-friendly environment for residents and staff alike.

- A kick-start to the much needed regeneration of Victoria Avenue, the thoroughfare used by the vast majority of visitors to the town.

Council leader, Councillor Nigel Holdcroft, said: "When we reviewed the operation of the Civic Centre last year it was clear that costly maintenance work was unavoidable.

"This project will enable us to deal with urgent maintenance issues and re-organise ourselves to reflect today's modern working methods."

"The electric, heating, water and ventilation systems in the Civic Centre and the toilet facilities are all in urgent need of upgrading."

"Our original plans included modernising and improving the areas of the building occupied by elected councillors."

"But this work is not urgently required and has been suspended on an open-ended basis until such time as there is a significant improvement in the economic climate."

"These essential works to the Civic Centre will make the building more cost effective for many years to come as well as more user-friendly and

efficient for customers and staff alike."

The first phase of the refurbishment will require those staff currently based on the top four floors of the building to move temporarily to nearby Margaret Thatcher House, but it is hoped disruption to services will be kept to a minimum.

EC Harris was appointed in April 2010 as the consultants to work on planning and designing the refurbishment works.

Mace Plus has been appointed to undertake the construction works, which are expected to be completed by September 2012.



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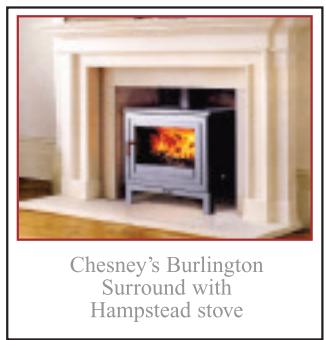
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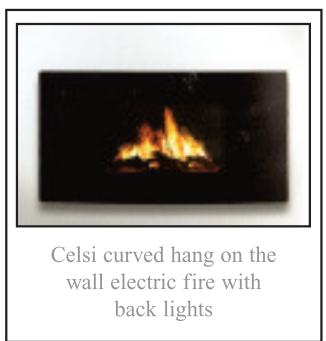
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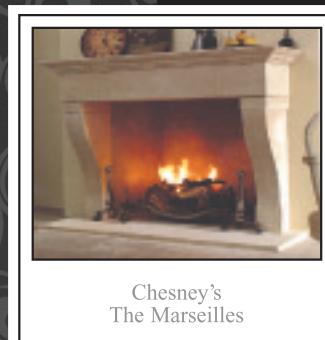
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Volunteering opportunities

By Karen Davis

A COMMUNITY group has revealed a number of opportunities available for volunteers.

Anyone interested in the following roles should contact the Southend Volunteer Centre (SAVS) on 01702 356600.

■ Volunteer Handyman - Bourne Infant School, Ladram Road,

Southend.

The school would like volunteers to help with painting & decorating, grounds maintenance and minor repair work.

Practical experience of painting, decorating and DIY, and an enthusiastic/ flexible approach required.

■ Young Person's Mentor - The Wilderness Foundation.

Would you like to make a difference in

a young person's life, providing mentoring and working alongside them on a one-to-one basis? You will also be accompanying young people on a three-day wild camping trip in April.

Good listening skills, patience and an enhanced CRB will be required.

■ Low Energy Light Bulb Collectors - Recolight Ltd (CoBRA Scheme).

There is a growing need for community involvement to reduce landfill waste,

so if you could spare an hour each month why not become a light bulb collector?

Collection boxes are supplied to put in your local shop, post office or community centre and when full you take the contents to a bulking up centre.

A driving licence is essential.

■ Administrative Assistant - Polish Saturday School.

An administration assistant is needed at the Polish Saturday School to help with organising files for the school and writing letters for parents whose children come to the schools

and other organisations.

Literacy at Level Two, good communication skills and an interest in languages are needed.

■ Exhibition Guide

An opportunity has arisen for people interested in local heritage.

Learn about the history of Southend and share knowledge with the general public in exhibitions which will be in the Royals Shopping Centre, from Tuesday, February 15 to Friday April 15.

Previous experience or confidence working with the public is desirable.



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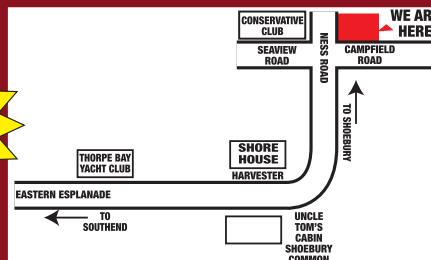
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Residents Association meeting

THE RESIDENT'S Association of Westborough are meeting at the British Legion, Northview Drive, Westcliff, on Friday February 18.

Guest speakers are Dr Jayaprasanan and Jenny Mazarello, associate director or primary care performance and planning at South East Essex Primary Care Trust. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.20pm start.

For tickets, call Brenda Smith on 01702 351936.

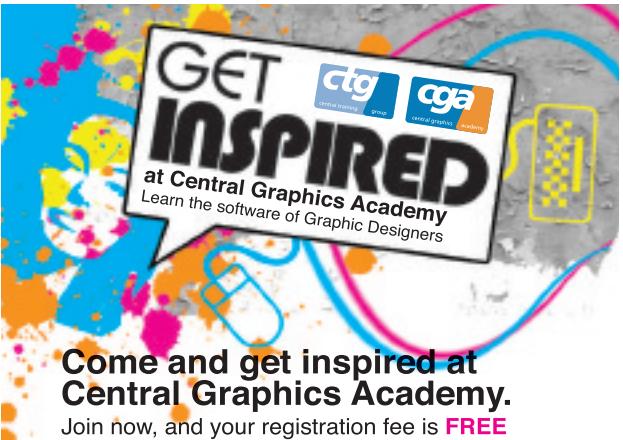
Looking for Jesus

A WESTCLIFF theatre company is looking for Jesus.

Three lance Theatre Company is putting on a production of Godspell and is looking for someone who can sing and act.

The show takes place at St Saviour's Church, Westcliff, on Friday, May 20 until Sunday, May 22 as part of the church's centenary celebrations.

If you would like to audition for the role, or simply want a little more information on the production, e-mail three lance theatre@hotmail.co.uk or contact David or Zoe through the Three lance Theatre Company's Facebook page.



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Lessons, to be held at Belfairs Swim Centre, Fairview Gardens, Eaton Road, Leigh, and Shoeburyness Leisure Centre, Delaware Road, Southend, are based on the Amateur Swimming

Association's National Teaching Plan to develop confidence, water skills and stroke technique.

Courses cost £19 for the week, and involve half-hour classes every day for five days from Monday, February 21, run from either 9am or 9.30am.

For those with an Advantage Card there could be savings of between 10 and 50 per cent,

depending on the type of Advantage Card held.

For more details for the courses at Belfairs, call 01702-712155 or e-mail belfairs@parkwoodcommunity-leisure.co.uk

For Shoeburyness Leisure Centre, call 01702 293558 or e-mail Shoeburyness@parkwood-communityleisure.co.uk

Take the challenge

A CHALLENGE has been set for swimmers to swim a mile in an hour or less.

Shoeburyness Leisure Centre, in Delaware Road, Southend, will present a certificate and badge for anyone who completes the challenge on Tuesday, February 22, between 3.30pm and 4.30pm.

Entry costs £7 per swimmer.

To book your place call 01702-293558 or e-mail shoeburyness@parkwood-communityleisure.co.uk

Lifeguard course

A SWIM centre is staging a special Rookie Lifeguard course for children aged eight and over who are good swimmers and are confident in deep water.

The course, Shoeburyness Leisure Centre, Delaware Road, Southend, includes Key Stage Two of the Water Safety elements from the National Curriculum and costs £19 for the week. It takes place at 10am from Monday, February 21.

The course includes survival, rescue, sports skills, life support and water safety elements.

Police investigate criminal damage cases

THERE were two separate incidents of

criminal damage in Westcliff last week.

Suspects caused an estimated £100 damage at the rear entrance of Jasmine Enterprises in London Road, Westcliff, by damaging wiring and cables between 6pm on Thursday, January 20, and 8am on Friday, January 21.

At some point between 9am on Friday January 21 and 12.45pm the following day, an Alfa Romeo parked on a driveway in Wickford Road, Westcliff, was targeted by vandals.

Call PC Rodriguez-Perez at Southend Police Station on 0300 333 4444.

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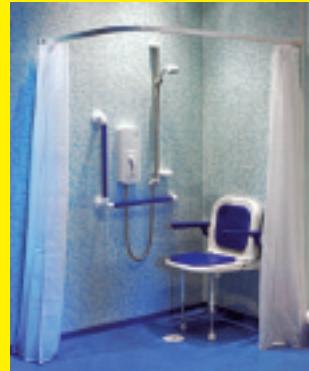
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By Karen Davis

A MAN was assaulted after attempting to intervene in an argument.

The 21-year-old was walking in London Road, Westcliff, at around 2.30am on Saturday, January 29, when he saw an argument taking place between a man and a woman near to the junction with Crowstone Road.

When he saw the man grabbing the woman's hair and bang her head against a scaffolding pole, he approached the couple in an attempt to assist the woman.

However, the man started to

repeatedly punch the victim in the face, knocking him to the floor.

Two men in a passing vehicle stopped to help, at which point the suspect fled the scene.

The victim sustained serious swelling and bruising to his face, and now needs hospital treatment because his vision from his right eye has been affected.

The suspect is described as a white man, aged 18-25 years old, of muscular build, with short black spiky hair.

He wore a red and grey chequered long-sleeved shirt, dark blue jeans and black shoes.

The woman was white and

aged 18-25. She was of slim build and had dark shoulder-length straight hair.

She wore a tight fitting black dress and black high-heeled shoes.

Investigating officer, PC Steve Wells, said: "This was a nasty assault against a young man, who has been left with serious facial injuries.

"I'd like to appeal for any witnesses to come forward - especially the woman who was subject to the initial assault and the two men who stopped to help the victim."

PC Wells can be contacted at Leigh Police Station on 0300 3334444.

►speedread ►speedread ►speedread ►speedread

Science week

A PRIMARY school replaced normal lessons with science experiments last week.

The school chose science as part of a curriculum week which aims to raise children's awareness of a certain topic.

Ten-year-old pupil, Zack Littlejohn, said: "It was more fun than a normal week. We made volcanoes to see the chemical reactions and investigated rocks and soils. I learnt a lot."

Man assaulted

A MAN was seriously assaulted outside a Southend bar.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the assault, which happened in the early hours of Saturday at about 12.20am.

A 31-year-old man tried to intervene in an argument between a man and woman and was then assaulted, leaving him with a deep cut to his forehead requiring nine stitches. The incident happened outside Chinnerys in Marine Parade.

Call PC Neil Gale at Rayleigh Police Station on 0300 333 4444.

Pair charged

A DRUGS crackdown in Southend called Operation Saturn has resulted in two

more men being charged. David Odunagan, 20, of Cadogan Terrance, London, has been charged with possession with intent to supply crack and heroin.

A 17-year-old boy from Enfield has been charged with six charges of supplying Class A drugs, possession of heroin and possession of cocaine and two charges of possession of a knife.

A 37-year-old man from Westcliff was arrested on suspicion of supplying Class A drugs.

He has been released on bail to March 16.

It brings the total charged as part of last week's operation to 19.

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Opinion and readers' letters

Turning off lights is not so bright

THERE may be a case for part time traffic lights but the amount of electricity saved would be minimal.

If the Council are serious about saving electricity then why do they allow street signs to remain illuminated in daylight?

There is no need for them to be illuminated at all as it is possible to have reflectorised signs as used on the railway.

**David Barratt,
Westcliff on Sea**

Licensing changes will not curb drinking

THE previous Government introduced 24-hour licensing to curb excessive drinking as closing time approached.

It only served to increase consumption and make many streets no go areas late at night.

Now we have a new Government with the notion that increasing the price of alcohol will curb excessive drinking. Both these schemes are designed to increase the Chancellor's revenue through

taxation and do nothing to solve the problem.

Name and address supplied

Real chance of democracy on May 5

PROVIDED the unelected dinosaurs in the House of Lords stop blocking a piece of new legislation, we expect to enjoy a rare moment of real democracy on 5 May. Those of us who have been bitterly disappointed with politics and politicians will have a chance to demand change at a referendum on electoral reform.

If you have been infuriated by lies, deceit or incompetence you will have a chance to make politicians more accountable. Many will be annoyed by the Conservatives' deceit over VAT, the Lib Dems' betrayal over tuition fees or the Labour failure to regulate the banks, which nearly bankrupted us all.

The proposed new Alternative Voting (AV) system will make it easier for disillusioned voters to remove an unpopular MP. The AV system will reduce the jobs for life mentality of many MPs, forcing them to work harder to earn and keep the support of at least 50 per cent of the electorate.

The proposed AV system will also liberate millions of voters who currently feel

obliged to vote tactically. At last people will be free to vote for the party they really support the most, rather than against the party they fear the most.

By shaking up a tired 'first past the post' voting system, which serves to frustrate and block the demands of millions of people, we can reinvigorate our political process and bring democracy a little closer to all.

If you would like to know more about electoral reform then please visit the website YesToFairerVotes.Org or write to me to seek a presentation on reform at any community group meeting. I can be contacted at:

av_now_JonFuller@hotmail.com

Jon Fuller, via e-mail

Religious motivations

YOUR correspondent P Buxton gave us a comprehensive exposition of public benefactors and social reformers, all of whom were motivated by their Christian beliefs, and how we all benefit to some degree or other.

In a spirit of fairness and balanced reportage should not someone submit a similar piece with reference to Islam? Or Buddhism or Shintoism, or even people like your other correspondent Aubrey Stein?

And how bizarre for him to compare the writings of the Bible, held in respect by all

the major religions, to Alice in Wonderland or Lord of the Rings.

Aubrey should get out more.

Ron Hurrell, Southend

Not all Christians are good

WHILE P Buxton (YA letters Feb 3) produced a fine list of admirable people, whose influence on the world has improved life immeasurably for countless people over the centuries, can he/she be sure they were all dedicated Christians or just decent human beings living in countries that have Christianity as its adopted religion?

He/she did not mention any Christians whose influence had the opposite effect, or perhaps he/she would rather ignore their existence. So to name a few from a long, long list over the centuries.

Emperor Constantine, the first Christian Roman Emperor had 3,000 Christians killed because they did not agree with his version of the bible.

In 777 Charlemagne a devout Christian, had 4,500 Saxons beheaded when they refused to convert to Christianity.

In 1122 Christian crusaders in Jerusalem slaughtered men, women and children 'until their horses were knee deep in blood' then went to church to thank God for his mercy.

In the 15th century Pope Nicholas V instructed European Christian nations to 'invade, capture, vanquish and subdue indigenous peoples, subjugate them and reduce their persons to perpetual slavery and take away all their possessions and property'.

This edict undoubtedly encouraged the destruction of many civilisations, their cultures and religions worldwide, Aztec, Inca, Polynesian, African etc, and forced on them a religion and way of life they did not want.

Then there were the Spanish Inquisition, witch-hunts, the Marian persecutions, Ireland, etc, that resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths, many in a most gruesome manner.

Even in modern times this continues. Extermination camps in Yugoslavia during WWII run by Franciscan monks. In the Rwanda genocide priests, nuns and bishops were convicted at war crime tribunals for their involvement. Two were hanged in 1998.

Even today, millions of deaths in Africa are a direct result of the church refusing to allow their followers the use of condoms to prevent the spread of Aids.

The world needs good decent people not Christians whose religious views include 'but those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before

me'. Luke 19:27.

By the way Adolf Hitler was a Christian.

Keith Knight, Basildon

Lighting up the traffic chaos

WORKMEN have been busy at Cuckoo Corner over the last week installing a mind boggling 27 traffic lights on the roundabout.

In March last year when the Council defied the people and cut down 14 trees in Priory Crescent, they announced their infamous F.O.B.O.F. offer (fall one get one free), claiming the trees would be replaced two for one, it now seems the two in question are traffic lights, so we expect one more to be installed to make up the shortfall.

The pointless lights were turned on for the first time at 12:30 lunchtime on Wednesday. The traffic chaos has already begun, with traffic backing up along Priory Crescent, Prince Avenue and Victoria Avenue as soon as the lights were turned on.

Let's see how long it will be before the Council have to admit the lights are a mistake and turn them off, as has happened in recent years across the Country.

Many of the engineers, working on the project have admitted to SKIPP in private that they cannot see the need for the lights and have predicted problems as a result of their installation.

One local expert Tony Mihill, owner of the driving school on Earls Hall Parade, has described the situation as hazardous, confusing and dangerous and he is just one of the many raised voices condemning the pointless lights.

Let's hope that it will not cost any motorist or pedestrians their lives before the Council come to their senses and removes the expensive waste of money.

**The SKIPP Committee,
Patsy Link, Sheena Walker,
Mark Sharp**

Council has got it wrong – again!

I HAVE just sat for 25 minutes in slow moving traffic to get from Sutton Road roundabout to Cuckoo Corner.

The reason for the slow traffic was the improvement Southend Council thought they would do to Cuckoo Corner.

Whilst the workmen were there widening the road the traffic ran fine, when they added the filter lane it was great, no more queues back to Sutton Road, money well spent I thought.

And then, to finish the project off, someone thought they would add traffic lights.

We are now back to long slow

traffic piling back to Sutton Road one way and the Bell pub the other!

Why oh why do the powers that be feel we need traffic lights? The idea of a round-about is to keep the traffic moving and allow free flowing traffic.

We are now once again left with a big mess on the A127. Well done Southend Council, once again you have got it wrong.

Mark Brazier, Leigh-on-Sea

What a waste of time and money

I RECENTLY had cause to ring and congratulate the parks and gardens department for the grand job done on spade edging the grass verges on the Highlands Estate.

Such a pity that this work was a waste of time, effort, and particularly money. Why?

Well nothing is done to stop car drivers from both parking and driving their vehicles on these verges which in some areas makes these verges look as if a war has been fought on them.

When this was mentioned to the council I was advised that nothing could be done to prevent this and that the signposts pointing out that it was an offence to drive or park vehicles on grass verges were in fact pointless.

Another waste of money. It would be interesting to know who owns the verges and if it is the council then why not prosecute offenders for damaging council property.

John Gregory, Leigh-on-Sea

Were you a musician in the Royal Air Force?

THE RAF Music Services Association is looking for new members.

We wish to contact any retired and former musicians who served in any of the RAF established bands or orchestras, including the WRAF band and the RAF voluntary bands.

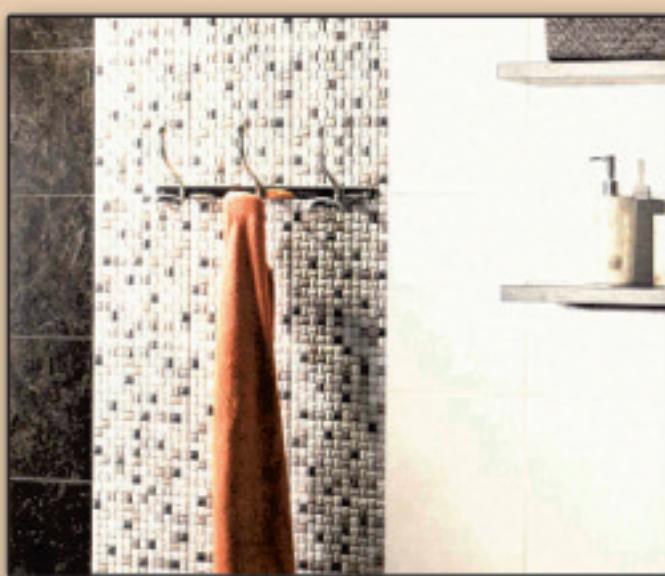
The Association was formed in 1987 as a way for members to renew their friendships with former colleagues.

Membership includes a magazine twice a year full of news and reminiscences of the RAF Music Services past and present. Members also have the opportunity to attend the Annual Reunion each summer.

For full details of membership please contact John Dablin on 01296 433763 or by e-mail at jdablin@ntlworld.com.

John Dablin, via e-mail

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SYLVIA young 61, loving, caring, likes walks, meals out, cinema, music, gardening, cooking, seeks similar genuine male. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 334475

INDEPENDENT 30's female who loves men in uniform looking for funky fellas to have fun times with. No ties. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358625

NICE lady 50, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, attractive, homely, romantic, caring, genuine, seeks medium-stocking build nice guy for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 336819

I might be 47 but am certainly not over the hill yet! Attractive and looking for a good reason to get back in shape. Call me. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 356147

EASYGOING honest female 30, slim, blue eyed and new to this, seeks spontaneous male with plenty of spare time. Any age/status/race. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358285

ELEGANT professional black lady, 43, 5ft 3ins, medium build, active, seeks professional, genuine, honest guy, 38-54. Any nationality. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 315285

CURVY blue eyed brunette, attractive and fit. I'm a young looking and active 43yrs, varied interests. WLTM mature male with GSOH who knows how to treat a lady, 40 -70yrs. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 359775

BEV petite and trendy with a nice figure, solvent, animal friendly and looking for soul mate up for lots of fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 356149

ATTRACTIVE affectionate, romantic female, 51, likes home life, seeks stocky/medium build, genuine male, 47-57 for 1-2-1. Essex. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 384010

ANGIE 31yr old female, gorgeous voluptuous body, long legs, great heels, misses male, attention, sees older guy to cut a smile back on her face. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 377866

ATTRACTIVE female, 50, medium build, caring, homely, seeks nice gent for romance to share good/bad times. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 335721

SENSELESS slim blonde, no lies, been without for too long! You have nothing to lose and much to gain. Call me. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 375980

40YR old workaholic looking for some time off liaisons with likeminded man, lets get together and see how thing go. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358621

ATTRACTIVE homely, romantic lady, medium build, 51, seeks genuine, stocky, honest guy 41-58. Romford. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 352827

ATTRACTIVE caring, interesting black lady, seeks educated, genuine, white male for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358937

SENSELESS slim blonde, no lies, been without for too long! You have nothing to lose and much to gain. Call me. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 359051

Pretty petite brunette, loves music, quiet nights in seeks lovely mature male who can make her feel sexy again. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 374426

NAUGHTY blonde, widow, slim and active, seeks creative partner in crime to share good times, maybe more. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 372046

VERY pretty funny slim brunette, 39, fit and active, seeks good looking guy for fun romance and more. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 354653

SHARON 41, 5ft 6ins, slim, black, likes golf, pubs, meals out, cinema, seeks tall, attractive, professional, honest guy for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 359233

VERY feminine blue eyed blonde seeks strong, well built male to share intimate good times. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 370706

SUE young 43, long dark hair, very adventurous seeks mature male with plenty of experience to chill out and share uncomplicated friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 378306

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 359059

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ATTRACTIVE caring, interesting black lady, seeks educated, genuine, white male for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358937

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40YR old workaholic looking for some time off liaisons with likeminded man, lets get together and see how thing go. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358621

ATTRACTIVE caring, interesting black lady, seeks educated, genuine, white male for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358937

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Pretty petite brunette, loves music, quiet nights in seeks lovely mature male who can make her feel sexy again. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 374426

NAUGHTY blonde, widow, slim and active, seeks creative partner in crime to share good times, maybe more. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 372046

VERY pretty funny slim brunette, 39, fit and active, seeks good looking guy for fun romance and more. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 354653

TINKERBELLE seeks Peter Pan, I'm 36, 5ft size 8-10 and am looking for a tall strong man who can connect and make me laugh. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358721

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CARING genuine single mum seeks male for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358719

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INEXPERIENCED pretty female 18, likes to look after herself and look good, seeks older free spirited male to look after me. Status/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358161

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DAVE 6ft 1ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cooking, seeks female. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 331291

5FT 7ins Turkish/Cypriot male, 46, many interests looking for easygoing woman with many interests like his for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 301079

MALCOLM 55 single and living in Ramsgate, seeking someone to have some fun with. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358899

GUY 44, 5ft 9ins, short dark hair, medium build, likes sport, seeks nice female 35-47. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358851

ATTRACTIVE late 40's London born Turkish/Cypriot diamond, honest, reliable, down to earth, romantic, seeks female to share his jewel with. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 340529

KIND affectionate male, seeks likeminded lady. Tel: Tonbridge/Sevenoaks. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 331455

BRIAN 47, 5ft 9ins, medium build, told attractive, easygoing, N/S, likes pubs, eating out, cinemas, seeks attractive white female, 35-47 LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358795

STRIKINGLY attractive, tall, black man, London born, 45, very well dressed, athletic, seeks faithful, adventurous, truthful woman for unforgettable adventures. Am I asking too much? Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 350581

OAP 80's, recently widowed and very lonely WLTM genuine female for conversations and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358757

NORTH London black male, 49, working, attractive, GSCH, N/S, caring, romantic, seeks similar genuine, honest curly, slim female, 47-54 for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358759

SIMON tall, well built, good looking, fun, seeks female. Kent. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 383150

ANTONY 45y romantic, caring white male, enjoys romantic meals out, cinema, WLTM black lady 35-50 for romance. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 384002

JOHN tall, slim, 58, London, seeks attractive, strict minded, commanding lady. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 359079

MEDITERRANEAN guy, romantic, seeks attractive black female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 351203

60YR old white guy, seeks nice black female for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 359219

MALE 20's, seeks female for friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 358616

ANDY romantic, loving, good looking, 42, brown hair/eyes, slim, likes nights out, cinema, cooking, weekends away, sees busy female, 23-42 with GSCH. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 357005

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FRIENDLY male, 54, looks younger, medium build, N/S, seeks male, 25-60 for discrete relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 383426

MALE likes most things, lonely, seeks caring female to put the sparkle back into life. Canterbury. Tel No: 0905 436 0274 Box No: 354385

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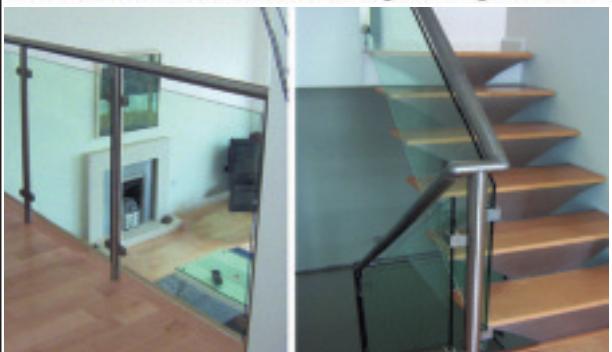


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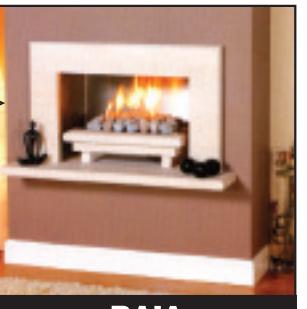


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Bringing history to life

LIZ WADE discovers the past during a visit to Havering Museum, in Romford

THE story of the Havering's past is brought to life at a new museum in the heart of Romford's High Street.

Havering Museum, which opened its doors last May, is situated in the historical building of the former Romford Brewery.

The museum tells the story of the people who have lived and worked in Havering, and how the borough has been affected by everything from growing industry to the coming of the railway.

While the museum is small, its two rooms are packed with information on the area and I spent well over an hour looking at photographs, reading information boards and exploring drawers that had a range of objects inside.

A map of Essex in 1777 is at the beginning of the journey through

Havering's history, which you can enjoy at your own pace by choosing different areas that interest you.

There's a collection of weights and measures, dresses and other items from past fashions including corsets, scarves and a parasol, as well a themed area on children and their schooling which is complete with a child's boot, writing slates, home-made abacuses, school uniform and attendance medals.

Below the displays are 'Explore the Drawers' signs encouraging you to open them up and look at a range of items including dress accessories, Anglo Saxon weapons and even some coins from the Hornchurch Hoard - a total of 448 silver coins which were discovered in 1938, struck during the reign of Henry III between 1223 and 1260.

There is also a beautiful Playtime Villa dolls house, which is on loan from the Museum of London.

This replica of a family's newly built home in the Garden Suburb of Upminster Hall Estate in 1908 would have cost between £700 and £900 at the turn of the 20th Century - a vast difference from what a home like that would fetch in Upminster today.

Other displays include images of stately homes across Havering, pictures of skilled craftsmen who used to live in the borough's villages and information about Havering's breweries in Hornchurch and Romford.

There are also five areas in the

centre of the rooms giving more information on specific areas of Havering including Havering-atte-Bower, Hornchurch, Romford, Rainham and Upminster.

The museum holds a programme of events throughout the year with something to suit everyone, from children to pensioners.

Its current winter programme includes a range of events for children during the half-term holidays, from February 23 to 26, centred around ancient civilisations.

Adult events are also being planned including card making workshops on February 23 and March 30, as well as an evening of Ghost Stories for Grown-Ups on Thursday, February 17. These all cost £5 each.

There are also weekly clubs and groups that welcome new members and visitors.

The Havering Hedgehogs Kids' Club meets every Saturday from noon to 1pm and has an annual membership of just £10.

The group, for four to 12-year-olds, offers arts and craft activities, object hunts and the chance to use the museum's collections for local history projects.

There is also a Project E group for young people aged 16 to 20, which meets every Saturday between 2pm and 4pm.

The group gives youngsters the chance to go behind the scenes at Havering Museum, gaining new skills and make new friends.

Its Reminiscence Group for older



HISTORIC: Learn about the past at Havering Museum.

people meets every Friday from 2-4pm and gives people the chance to get together and share their memories of life in Havering.

The entry fee to join the group is included in the museum's admission price, and it costs just 50p for

tea, coffee and biscuits.

Havering Museum brings both the past and present to life.

It is a lovely place to spend a couple of hours and learn about the history of the area and how the community has changed.

fact file

■ DIRECTIONS: Havering Museum is located at 19-21 High Street, Romford, in the old brewery building. There is parking at the rear of the building in The Brewery shopping centre.
■ OPENING TIMES: The museum is open from 12noon to 5pm from Wednesday to Friday and from 11am to 5pm on Saturdays.
■ ENTRANCE: Admission is £2.50 for adults, £2 for senior citizens and free for children.
■ FURTHER INFORMATION: Call 0845 270 7737 or visit www.haveringmuseum.org.uk

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what's on

To have your event considered for publication, send the details AT LEAST 14 DAYS before the issue date to: What's On, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, SS14 1AH. You can e-mail us at: letters@yellowad.co.uk PLEASE NOTE: We cannot guarantee that all entries will be included. However, you can add the details of your event to our website at www.yellowad.co.uk

Saturday, February 12

■ Hearts and Flowers Coffee Morning, Canvey Methodist Church, Waarden Road, Canvey, 10.30am-12.30pm, cake stall and other stalls.

■ Beginners Meditation, Shambhala Studios, 11 Leighcliff Buildings, Maple Avenue, Leigh, basic introduction to Buddhist meditation, 1-2pm, donation requested approx. £2.50, further details Dave/Aryacitta 01702 601360.

■ Valentine's Celebration, Ramsden Heath, Ramsden Heath Village Hall, 8pm, tickets £3 members, £5 non-members, no children, music and dancing, Mr and Mrs Competition, bring own drinks and snacks, to book call Dave Charlton 01268 711678.

■ Concert, The Salvation Army Temple, Hadleigh, Southend Symphony Orchestra', 7.30pm, tickets £9, concessions £8, children under 12 £1, available on door. 01268 755005.

■ Woodland Walk, Ramblers', Rochford and Castle Point Group, meet 10am, Belfairs Park by the stables, 5.5 miles.

■ Walk, SE Essex Ramblers', meet 9am, John Burrows Recreation Ground car park, Rectory Road, Hadleigh, 10 miles Sevenoaks Weald with pub stop, bring own refreshments.

■ Tenpin Bowling Club, Kursaal, Southend, (beginners welcome) 8-18 years, 9.30-11.45am, first week free, enquiries Bob 01702 505311.

■ Dad's and Kids Club, The Warehouse Centre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, Saturdays 10.30am-1.30pm, free admission, games, activities, arts and crafts, for boys and girls 5-17 years with their fathers and father figures. 01268 779100.

■ Saturday Morning Club, St Michaels Church Hall, Leigh Road, every Saturday 10am-noon, entertainment provided by choirs, soloists, musicians, refreshments, admission free, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled. 01702 437863.

■ Different Strokes Exercise Class, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, for those who have had a stroke, every

Saturday 2.30pm. 01702 465801.
■ Meeting, Brush Strokes Art Group, Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh, Saturday mornings, for membership details call Bob 01702 585584.

■ Jazz Workshop, Southend Jazz Co-op, St Michael's Church Hall (near car park entrance), Leigh Road/Mount Avenue, Leigh, every Saturday 10am-1pm, £5 per session (concessions available).

■ Art and Crafts for Kids, every Saturday in Southend, 10am-noon, from ages 7 and above, call Marie 01702 329408.

■ Football School for Girls, Fryerns Recreation Ground, £1 drop in sessions every Saturday 10.30-11.30am, in association with Leigh Celtic Girls and Ladies FC. 07882 456558.

■ Fun Football Training Sessions, Memorial Park, Wickford (Highcliff Road entrance), every Saturday 9.30-10.30am, under 5s and under 6s, parents encouraged to stay and watch, boys and girls welcome, further details 01268 769902.

■ Footie Tots, Swain School, Rayleigh, Saturday mornings from 9am, 3 years upwards, Shane 07887 627385/07790 938009.

Sunday, February 13

■ Self help group for stammerers meets on the second Sunday of every month in the Basildon area. Call 01268 454081 or 07964 356042.

■ TAP Artist Led Life Drawing Workshop, The Old Water Works, North Road, Southend, Dynamic Life Drawing, all day 10.30am-1.30pm and 2-5pm, (bring lunch), £10, an intermediate workshop exploring movement, gesture and action with music, all welcome, bring A2/A1 paper, masking tape, any drawing materials you enjoy using plus an easel if you have one, basic materials provided.

■ Mad Hatter Speed Dating, O'Neils Pub, Southend, in aid of Macmillan Nurses, 7.30pm, tickets from 07916 289279, raffle on night.

■ Walk, SE Essex Ramblers', meet 9.30am, Sainsburys, opposite Halfords, Rayleigh Well 6.5 miles around Thorndon Park, refreshments at end at The Centre.

■ Open, The Hockey and District Horticultural Society trading, every Sunday 10am-noon, for all your gardening sundries, situated behind Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell.

■ Jazz, Westcliff Hotel, Westcliff, Ron Spack's Dinner Jazz, 1pm. 01702 345247.

■ Short Mat Bowls, Sundays 7.30-10pm, all

welcome, £1.50 entry, call Dave 01268 57084.

■ American Football, Essex Spartans, junior players wanted aged 14-19, training Hannikins Farm, Rosebay Avenue, Billericay, Sundays noon-2pm, further details contact Coach, Alan 07794 210194.

■ Men's Futsal Football Sessions, Markhams Chase, Basildon, Sundays 8-10pm, all abilities welcome, £4, Paul 07882 456558.

■ Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation, Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh, Sundays 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation over tea and biscuits, all welcome.

Monday, February 14

■ Epilepsy Support Group - friendly discussion, speakers and activities, 7.45-10pm, George Hurd Centre, Basildon, further details Carole on 01268 270697.

■ Benfleet Camera Club, St George's Church Hall, Rushbottom Lane, Benfleet, illustrated talk 'Digital Photo Art', 8-10pm.

■ Jazz, Oakwood, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, Ron Spack's Jazzeet with John Sharpe saxophone/Dave Kay guitar, 8.30pm. 01702 512819.

■ Over 50's Social Session, Warehouse Centre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, 2.30-4.30pm, £2.50 a session, board games, quizzes, pool, Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays.

■ Leigh on Sea Caledonian Dancers, St James Church Hall, Elmsleigh Drive, Leigh, Mondays 7.30-10.15pm, new members welcome, first night free. 01702 354414.

■ Southend Chess Club, Ambleside Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend, Mondays 7.30pm, new members welcome, beginners or experienced players. 01702 345902.

■ Short Mat Bowls, Monday/Tuesday afternoons in Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.

■ Club 60, Floor 3, Queensway House, Essex Street, Southend, various activities every weekday, tea bar, non-members welcome, £1.50 day pass, 01702 613562.

■ Indoor Short Mat Bowls, Prittlewell Bowls Club, Priory Park, Southend, two mats available, with 5 day sessions, Monday to Friday, new players welcome, details Ray 01268 777666.

■ Come and try Lawn Bowls, VCA Riverview Bowls Club, Mopsies Park, Basildon, beginners very welcome, all equipment supplied, any Monday 5.30-7.30pm, or Tuesday 10am-noon, enquiries Dave Tandy 01268 762754.

■ Indoor Bowls, George Hurd Centre,

Audley Way, Basildon, for over 50s, Mondays 2-4pm, Tuesdays 2.15-4.45pm, Wednesdays 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 465854.

■ Whist, George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over 50s, every Monday 10am-noon, details 01268 465854.

■ Senior Citizens Club, Glynigrove Centre, Butneys, every Monday 1.30-3.30pm, make friends, bingo, trips. 01268 293995.

■ Pensioners Stall, York Road Outdoor Market, Southend, all tops, skirts and trousers all at £1 each, every Monday and Thursday 8am-2pm.

■ Evening of Clairvoyance, Room 2, Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey, every Monday, doors open 7.30pm, admission £3, all profits donated to local charities, healing available after service 9pm, 01268 691922.

■ Healing, every Monday in Basildon from 10.30am-4pm, qualified NFSH healers, no charge, all donations to local Hospice, call 07956 353564 for an appointment.

■ Development Healing Circle, Face Salon, Burdett Avenue, Westclif, an understanding of spiritual healing and prayer, every Monday 8-9.30pm, further details 07879 004744.

■ Fitness Walking, from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh, every Monday and Thursday 7.15-8.15pm. 01702 71509.

■ Scrabble Club, Wesley Methodist Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, (opposite police station), friendly club, all standards welcome, every Monday 7-10pm, £2.50, just turn up or call 01268 727915.

Tuesday, February 15

■ Meeting, Laindon and District Horticultural Society, Laindon Community Centre, Aston Road, Laindon, 'Alpines', 8pm, annual membership £7, visitors £1.50.

■ Lunchtime Recorded Music, Committee Room 3, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend, Your Valentine Classics, 12.45-1.45pm, admission free.

■ Folk Music, The Hoy at Anchor Folk Club, The Ship, New Road, Old Leigh, 'Open Night featuring Shortrun', 8pm. 01702 715111.

■ Mainstream Jazz, Spike's Place Jazz Club, Hadleigh Hall, Rectory Road, Hadleigh, 'Lee Gibson Quartet', 8.30pm.

■ Meeting, Highlands Forum, Highlands Methodist Church Hall, Sutherland Boulevard, Leigh, 'PDSA Vicki', 2.30pm-4pm.

■ Carpet Bowls, Eastwood Community Hall, by Morrisons, Tuesdays 1.45-3.45pm, come and try, no experience necessary, also Thursdays 3.30-5.30pm.

■ Card Making Classes, The Seniors' Club, Hullbridge Day Centre, Windermere Avenue,

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what's on

Hullbridge, Tuesdays 7-9pm. 01702 233098.
 ■ Walking Club, Phoenix Striders, meet 7pm
 Markhams Chase Sports Centre, first hour walking depart 7.15pm, every Tuesday and Thursday. 01268 415469.
 ■ Social Tea Dance, St Cedd's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff, 2pm. 0783 664443.
 ■ Social Tea Dance, Ashingdon Memorial Hall, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon, Tuesdays 2-4pm. 01702 230480.
 ■ Top Cats Social Club, (Southend Mencap), Castle View School, Meppel Avenue, Canvey, Tuesdays 7.30-4.45pm, for adults with learning disabilities age 25 plus, £2 per session, membership details 01702 341250.
 ■ Tuesday Luncheon Club, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled, Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff, for people living alone or with their carers, further details 01702 478691/525141/340617.
 ■ Depression: Self Help Group, every Tuesday 8-9.30pm, and Thursdays 12.30-2pm, we are a very successful and caring group, Michael 01268 527283.
 ■ Vange Tots, The Vange Community Centre, Vange Hill Drive, Vange, every Tuesday 9.30-11.30am, entry £1, snack and drinks provided for all. 01268 498642.
 ■ Shoebury Flagship, Rainbow Children's Centre, Friars School, Constable Way, Shoebury, every Tuesday 1.30-3.30pm, health visiting team offering activities, advice and support for parents with babies and children aged up to 5 years. 01702 577656.
 ■ Cherrydown Children's Centre, 4 Cherrydown West, Basildon, Toddler Development (9-18 months), 10-11.30am; Baby Development (0-9 months) 10-11.30am; Healthy Snack 11.30pm-noon; Breastfeeding Support Group noon-2pm.
 ■ Mum2Mum, Breastfeeding support group, St Michael's Church Annexe, Sir Walter Raleigh Drive, Rayleigh, Tuesdays 10am-noon, pregnant mums welcome. 07801 097605.
 ■ Breastfeeding Support Group, St Andrew's Church, London Road, Wickford, Tuesdays 2-4pm, donation £1 to cover refreshments.
 ■ Breastfeeding Support Group, Shoebury Nursery, Delaware Road, Shoebury, Tuesdays 10am-noon. 01702 57744/07814 486947.

Wednesday, February 16

■ Ballroom and Latin American Lessons, St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime Avenue, Leigh, every Wednesday 2.45-3.45pm, to raise

funds for the church hall. 01268 281488.
 ■ Southend Vox Choir, Temple Sutton School, Southend, every Wednesday 7.30-9.30pm, lively, fun choir for adults (18+), call Jo 07969 216366.
 ■ Over 50s Session, Warehouse Centre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, Wednesdays and Thursdays 2-4pm, badminton and short mat bowls, session price £3.30 includes refreshments and use of equipment. 01268 779100.
 ■ Leigh Singles Social Club, meet Wednesdays 8pm The Elms Pub, Leigh, age group 45-65 years. Sue 07917 573653.
 ■ Played Bowls Before? Come and try it at FS&S Club, Gardeners Close, Basildon, all weather green, free coaching given, regular club mornings, call Charlie 01277 623752.
 ■ Football Sessions for girls, Fryems Recreation Ground, £1 drop in sessions, every Wednesday, 6-7pm, community project supported by Basildon Council, in association with Leigh Celtic Girls FC. 07882 456558.
 ■ Ladies Football, Futsal Fitness Sessions, Fryems Recreation Ground, community project supported by Basildon Council, £1 drop in sessions every Wednesday 7-8pm, ages 16-60, call Paul 07882 456558.
 ■ Rayleigh County Market, WI Hall, Bellington Lane, every Wednesday 8.30-11.30am.
 ■ Breastmarts, The Cambridge Road Children's Centre, Cambridge Road, Southend, every Wednesday 10am-noon, support for breastfeeding. 07837 236656.
 ■ Parent and Toddler Group, Honeybees, Laindon Community Centre, Aston Road, High Road, Laindon, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9.30am and 10.30am. 01268 449431/07944 983734.
 ■ Parent and Toddler Group, Buttercup Club, Scout Hall, Ellensbrook Close, Leigh, 9.30am and 11am, Wednesdays and Thursdays. 01702 712150.
 ■ Parent and Toddler Group, Little Angels, Steeple View Memorial Hall, Laindon, Wednesdays 1-3pm.
 ■ Parent and Toddler Group, Cherrydown Children's Centre, 4 Cherrydown West, Basildon, Wednesdays 1-2.30pm.

Thursday, February 17

■ Social Afternoon, Civil Service Retirement Fellowship, Parish Council Rooms, West Street, Rochford, 2-4pm. 01702 342426.
 ■ Illustrated Talk, Westcliff United Reformed Church Hall, Kings Road, Westcliff, "Patagonia" by Mike Sanderson, 7.30pm. £1.50 donation, including refreshments.

■ Meeting, Thundersley Women's Institute, WRVS Hall, Richmond Avenue, Benfleet, speaker Mr B Carline 'Life in our Secondary Schools', 7.45pm, visitors welcome £2.
 ■ Play, James Hornsby High School, Leinster Road, Laindon, Basildon, Basildon Players present Goods Inward, a comedy by a local playwright, 8pm, (not suitable for young children), showing to Saturday February 19, tickets £5, concessions £4, from www.essextheatreticketing.co.uk or www.basildonplayers.co.uk
 ■ Art Class, Westcliff United Reform Church, Kings Road, Westcliff, 10am-noon, with artist and tutor Paul Alcock, beginners and experienced students welcome. 01702 615475.
 ■ New Art Class, Westcliff United Reform Church, Kings Road, Westcliff, 1-3pm, beginners acrylics, oils and drawing, with artist and tutor Paul Alcock. 01702 615475.
 ■ Adult Swimming, James Hornsby School, beginners, improvers or just swim to keep fit, 7.30-8.30pm term time, 01268 543079.
 ■ Buddies Over 50 Social Club at Anchor Pub, Benfleet, varied social events, come and make new friends, 8.30pm every Thursday, call Jill 01268 753367.
 ■ Sales Table, Outpatients Foyer, Southend Hospital, every Thursday 7.30am-3.00pm, toys, books, bric-a-brac. 01702 586697.
 ■ Ballroom Dancing, St Aldan's Hall, The Fairway, Leigh, all welcome, 8-10.30pm, £3, tea/coffee available.
 ■ Tea Dance, St James' Church Hall, Elmsleigh Drive, Leigh, ballroom, Latin and sequence, every Thursday 2-4.15pm. 01702 216726.
 ■ Whist Drive, Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, Marguerite Drive, Leigh, Thursdays 1.45pm, entry £1.20.
 ■ Drama/Social Club, working for Animal Charities, St George's Hall (near Tarrots), Rushbottom Lane, Benfleet, new members needed, no acting experience required, Thursdays 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 697357.
 ■ Social Tennis, Crowstone and St Saviour's LTC, Victory Path, Chalkwell, Thursdays 2pm, for improvers, £3 visitors fee. 01702 711823.
 ■ Yoga Classes, Unitarian Hall, Grange Gardens, Southend, 6-7.30pm and 8-9.30pm, non-profit making. 01702 616990.
 ■ Why not try Carpet Bowls, The Salvation Army Hall, Elm Road, Leigh, Thursdays 2-4pm, £4, first 3 weeks free. 01702 553546.
 ■ Short Mat Bowls, Willows Park, James Hornsby School, Leinster Road, Laindon, Thursdays 7.30pm, first 3 weeks free, 01277 625027.
 ■ Clairvoyance, Shoebury Spiritual Centre,

The Sandpiper Community Centre, Sandpiper Close, Shoebury, Thursdays 8-10pm, free healing, admission £3. 01702 476087.

Friday, February 18

■ Live Music, upstairs at The Spread Eagle, Victoria Avenue, Prittlewell, Southend, 'The Seaside', 8.30pm, free entry, membership £1 for life.
 ■ Friday Meeting, In touch, Unitarian Hall, Grange Gardens, Southend, drop in for cup of tea and a chat, wide range of support and advice on welfare, housing issues and much more, 9am-2.30pm.

■ Watercolour Class, Leigh Sailing Club, Old Leigh, 10.15am-12.15pm and 1.30-3.30pm, happy weekly class, details Teresa Norfolk 01702 307173.

■ Drama Classes, Helen O'Grady Drama Academy, The Stables, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh, not a stage school, designed to increase children's life skills, Fridays after school, to enrol call Dina 01245 328680.
 ■ Bargain Box Open, Pastoral Centre, St Martin's Church, Basildon (Church walk near Marks and Spencer), every Friday 10am-noon, good quality/nearly new clothes, bric-a-brac, books, videos etc, tea/coffee, all welcome, no entrance charge.

■ Come and try Diving, Gloucester Park Swimming Pool, every Friday 8-10pm, learn to scuba dive, details Paul 07802 643734.
 ■ Table Tennis, St Andrew's Church Hall, Church Road, Shoebury, every Friday 2-4pm. 01702 296708.

■ Table Tennis, Markhams Chase Sports Centre, Basildon, every Friday 2pm, £2.50 per session.

■ Modern Sequence Tea Dance, St James' Church Hall, Elmsleigh Drive, Leigh, Fridays 1.45-3.45pm, details Henry 01702 293794.
 ■ Evening of Clairvoyance, St Edmunds Hall, St Edmunds Close, (off Pantile Avenue), Southend, Fridays 8pm, healing from 7pm.
 ■ Clairvoyance, Hockley Old Fire Station, Southend Road, Hockley, (next to Spa Pub), visiting mediums, Fridays 7.30-9.30pm.
 ■ Southend Chess Club, Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, The Old School House, Southchurch Boulevard, Southend, Fridays 7.30pm, new members welcome, beginners or experienced players. 01702 435902.
 ■ Chess, Cedar Centre, Castle Road, Rayleigh, Fridays, 7.30pm onwards, all ages and abilities welcome, details Derek Stockings 01268 772923.
 ■ Messy Play, The Hills Children's Centre, British Legion Triangle Building, High Road, Laindon, Fridays 9.30-10.45am.

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- 24th April - **Gilbert & Sullivan Operetta with dinner - £79**
- 26th, 27th, 28th May - **Chelsea Flower Show - £65**
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- 16th June - **Ascot Ladies Day - £59**
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Eating out offers a wide selection of restaurants to choose from

eating out

Advertisement feature

Have a winning meal at award-winning Hasina

DINERS visiting Leigh's Hasina tandoori restaurant can be sure of a winning meal. The restaurant was 'highly commended' in 2008's prestigious Tiffin Cup, where MPs from across the country nominate their favourite constituency curry house.

Now customers can also enjoy the delicious food, which prompted Southend West MP, David Amess, to nominate his favourite Indian restaurant for an award.

The Hasina has been in Rayleigh Road for the past 25 years and owner, Samsu Miah, prides himself on the restaurant's mouth watering, varied and comprehensive menu, comfortable surroundings and excellent service.

Mr Miah was delighted to win a Tiffin Cup accolade, after competing in the final at the House of Commons.

"We ensure all the meals we serve to our customers are as good as the ones we produced in the competition," Mr Miah said.

As well as its a la carte menu, the restaurant offers a range of set meals and a choice of special menus for two or four people. It is currently offering a two course special, from Sunday to Wednesday, for just £11.95 per person. The special deal includes a starter, main dish, side dish, rice or nan (extra £2 for King Prawn dishes).

The Hasina is delighted to help clients celebrate everything from birthdays to anniversaries. Staff are happy to provide set meals for large parties, whether you are planning an event with friends, family or work colleagues.

The restaurant also offers an extensive collection only takeaway service for customers.



The Hasina is now taking bookings for Valentine's Day when the restaurant will be a romantic setting for couple's. Anyone interested in booking a table for February 14 is urged to call as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

The Hasina, at 358 Rayleigh Road, Eastwood,

Leigh, is open seven days a week, including bank holidays, from 12 noon till 2.30pm and 6pm till midnight.

For further information, or to make a reservation call The Hasina on 01702 511590 or 01702 511990.

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Advertisement feature

eating out

Sample exquisite food at the Regency Spice

ONE of the largest restaurants in Essex has become a firm favourite with diners since opening its doors last year. Regency Spice Restaurant, Lounge and Diner, in Back Lane, Rochford, has been serving exquisite food that looks sensational and tastes divine since opening its doors in May.

Its menu includes a vast range of dishes from chef's recommendations to Regency specialities.

There are a range of tandoori specialities, balti dishes, Nepalese and Bangladeshi specialities, Thali and Kurzi specials, Persian, chicken, meat, fresh fish and shellfish dishes, as well as Thai specialities, vegetarian options and Regency Combination Platters for two or four people.

These are complemented by a wide range of starters, rice dishes, nan breads, sundries and pickles, and desserts. The fully licensed and air conditioned restaurant also offers an extensive drinks list including a wide range of beers and wine.

It has a range of offers including a Business Lunch, available from noon to 2.30pm from Monday to Friday, which includes a chicken tikka or lamb or vegetable samosas for starter, chicken tikka massala or chicken bhuna for the main course, as well as bombay potato, pilau rice and nan bread, for £8.95 per person.

It also has a Sunday Buffet, served from noon to 11.30pm, when customers can eat as much as they like from a large selection of delicious dishes for £7.95 per person, or £3.95 for under 10's.

Tony, the owner of Regency Spice, who has been in the catering business for 40 years, prides himself on his restaurant, which is a wonderful place to celebrate a range of special occasions, from engagements and weddings, to birthdays and anniversaries.



It has ample space for large parties thanks to its separate function room, which is complete with dance floor, sounds, lights and smoke, as well as karaoke. The restaurant, which has full disabled access, can also host charity nights for which it will donate 50 per cent to the charity of your choice.

Regency Spice will be the perfect setting for a romantic meal this Valentine's Day. Anyone interested in booking a table on February 14 is urged to call for further information and book early to avoid disappointment.

The restaurant also hosts tribute nights throughout the year and up-and-coming evenings include Lady Gaga on Thursday, February 24.

Regency Spice, which has a full takeaway service including free delivery, is open from noon to 2.30pm and from 5.30pm to midnight, from Monday to Saturday, and from noon to midnight on Sundays.

To make a reservation or for further information about Regency Spice, which is located in Back Lane, Rochford, SS4 1AY, behind Barclays Bank, call 01702 530422 or 01702 531324 or visit www.regencyspice.co.uk

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Advertisement feature

Romance is in the air at the Elderberry

COCKTAILS, canapés and delicious desserts are part of a romantic menu that has been specially created for Valentine's Day.

The six course 'With Love On Valentine's Day' menu will be served on February 14 at the modern and romantic Elderberry Restaurant.

The menu starts with canapés and cocktails, including 'The Raspberry Elderbubble', and is followed by a choice of starters including sauté wood pigeon with red wine risotto, vanilla glazed salsify and cocoa crisp; Scottish hand dived scallops with saffron cream sauce and lemon parmesan crumble; or balsamic marinated beetroot salad, with frozen beetroot mousse, and beetroot and port puree.

After a palette cleanser of sweet, spiced milk ice there's a choice of mains including slow cooked English lamb shoulder with crushed Jerusalem artichoke, crackling and glazed brussel sprouts; line caught sea bass with dauphine potatoes, sauté purple sprouting broccoli, and kale and white truf-

fle puree; or herb speckled dumplings with roasted butternut squash, toasted pine nuts, wilted spinach and sage oil dressing.

It's then on to lemongrass and ginger poached rhubarb with rhubarb and strawberry compote, strawberry marbles and spiced biscuits, or chocolate, hazelnut and lemon martini, before you enjoy filter coffee or tea, along with a selection of homemade chocolates and sweets.

This extensive menu is available for £49.50 per person, and can also include a selection of cheese from the UK and Ireland, with biscuits, oatcakes and chutney, for an extra £7.50 per person.

Elderberry Restaurant can also serve the special menu on Friday and Saturday, February 11 and 12, and Friday and Saturday, February 18 and 19, for bookings only.

Elderberry Restaurant, at 49 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, opened its doors in June last year to rave reviews from customers. It has been delighting diners ever since

with its ever changing menu packed with seasonal local British produce, including home grown vegetables, local meats, fish from British waters, Benfleet honey, British and Irish cheese, and home baked bread.

The owners of the restaurant, Michael and his partner Samantha, wanted to offer customers an extraordinary dining experience and have turned the establishment into a thriving modern British restaurant.

Michael has 10 years experience in a range of top restaurants across Essex and London, including Gordon Ramsey's Petrus and the well known Magic Mushroom Restaurant in Billericay.

Elderberry Restaurant, which can comfortably seat 42 people, offers ever changing a la carte menus, a new lunchtime menu, and a popular Sunday lunch menu for just £8.95 per person.

Children will feel at home at the restaurant as it can prepare a range of fresh dishes for youngsters to enjoy such as home made free range breaded chicken nuggets.



Don't worry if you can't find something that you think you will enjoy as Michael relishes the chance to tailor make courses and whole menus for anybody, anytime - something proving very popular with regular vegetarian diners.

The restaurant can cater for parties of up to 50 or 60 people - making it an ideal place for a range of celebrations.

Elderberry Restaurant is open from noon to 3pm, and from 6.30pm to 10pm, Tuesday to Saturday, and from noon onwards on Sundays for a fantastic lunch.

For further information, or to make a reservation, call Elderberry Restaurant on 01268 777761, or visit www.elderberry-restaurant.com

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music & shows

Make your move

by Jenny Green

CHESS may not be the world's most famous musical, but it's got one of the best-known scores. Songs like I Know Him So Well and You And I have captured the hearts of many a theatre-goer - including a Mr Craig Revel Horwood.

Craig, who is best known for his tough judging skills on TV's Strictly Come Dancing, has directed the latest version of Chess, which will be coming to Westcliff next week.

With a huge cast of West End stars - including Fame Academy's James Fox and Wicked's Shona White - the show has been going down a storm.

"It's had a great reception and audiences have been on the edge of their seats throughout," Craig says. "People seem to love it."

"Chess has a cast of around 30 people and they all play their own instruments, as well as sing and dance so it has a massive symphonic sound."

"I fell in love with Chess around 20 years ago when it first came out and thought it would be a wonderful idea to redo it in a much bigger way."

"When the chance finally came along, I was delighted."

Despite being on Strictly, Aussie Craig - whose sharp tongue has earned him the nickname 'Craig Revel Horrid' - doesn't see TV as his 'bread and butter'. He also doesn't see himself as the big bad wolf he's made out to be.

"I take Strictly very seriously but sometimes my honesty gets misconstrued and people think I'm being nasty when I'm not," he explains.

"TV is fun, but it can be so fickle - I've been directing and choreographing for 15 years and dancing for 30, so I've got a lot more on my plate."

Chess will be at the Cliffs Pavilion, Westcliff, from February 15-19.

Tickets for the show start from £18.50 - to book, call the box office on 01702 351135 or visit the website - www.thecliffsavilion.co.uk



BURLESQUE: An Evening of Burlesque @ The Broadway, Barking. Feb 12, £18.50. 020 8507 5607



COMEDY: Angelos Epithemiou @ Palace Theatre, Westcliff. Feb 16, £17.50. 01702 351135



LATIN MUSIC: Clariadade @ Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch. Feb 11, £9.50. 01708 443333

what's on - what's on - what's on - what's on

LISTEN TO...

James Blake by James Blake
(out to buy now)

This is the debut album from London-based dubstep artist, James Blake, who was runner-up in the BBC's Sound of 2011 poll. Blake is renowned for his eclectic taste in music and this album really reflects that - as well as his love of super cool band, The XX. Definitely worth a listen.



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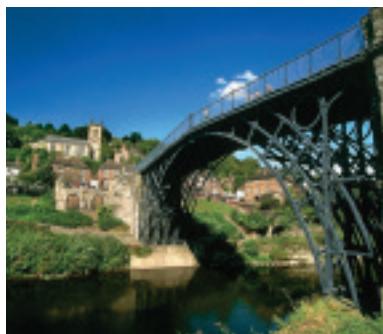
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■ LAKE DISTRICT - Enjoy a two-night break at Appleby Manor Country House Hotel for just £69pp - a saving of 45%. Offer includes accommodation, a five-course dinner, full English Breakfast, a bottle of wine and use of the hotel's facilities. Offer must be booked by Feb 24 and is valid for travel until Apr 30. To book, call 01768 351571 and quote 'dealchecker'.

■ CRETE - Spend seven nights at the exclusive Amirandes Grecotel resort for just £860pp. Price is based on two adults sharing a Superior Guest Room with Sea View and includes breakfast, return private car transfers and return Easyjet flights from London Gatwick. Offer is valid from Apr 24 - Jul 16 and Aug 21 - Oct 31. To book, call ITC Classics on 01244 355527.

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BREATHTAKING: A sea of red roofs in Lyon.
Pic: PA Photo/thinkstockphotos

Last tango in Lyon

by Caroline Hendrie

P AUSING to consult my map on the pavements of France's elegant second city, I found myself in excellent company.

Leaning from the windows of the building in front of me were the Lumière brothers, creator of the Little Prince Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the Emperor Claudius and top chef Paul Bocuse.

This selection of Lyon's citizens was made possible by the elaborate trompe l'oeil murals. La Fresque des Lyonnais is wrapped around a wedge-shaped building on the banks of the Saône - and is one the city's most striking sights.

If you love Paris, Lyon is a great alternative, compressing all the best elements of the capital in a handy, pocket-sized version.

With an efficient Metro system, you can enjoy the excellent shopping and museums, before heading to any one of the 2,000 restaurants, which hold no fewer than 22 Michelin stars between them.

A Lyon City Card, available from the Tourist Office in Place Bellecour

or hotel concierges, gets you into a number of museums, guided tours and aboard public transport.

My boyfriend and I decided to orientate ourselves with a walking tour of Vieux Lyon. Re-emerging on to Rue du Boeuf, we were yards away from our brilliantly located hotel - the romantic Cour des Loges, converted from an old monastery around a glass covered courtyard.

Our room was up a spiral stone staircase in one of the towers.

The walls, with exposed bricks, were draped with rich textiles and daylight visible only from an internal stairwell and two tiny barred windows about 10ft above our heads.

It felt like we were reliving the experience of an impoverished, post-Revolution aristocrat thrown into debtors' prison, made slightly more comfortable by the installation of an avocado sunken bath, red silk cushions and a minibar.

We loved visiting the Museum of Textiles and the Resistance and Deportation History Centre, which tells of darker days in Lyon. But the gastronomic highlight of our trip was a magnificent eight-course din-

ner at the restaurant of three Michelin-starred chef Paul Bocuse.

At 220 Euros per person, this Menu Grande Tradition Classique is a rare gastronomic experience - but probably more memorable than five dinners in ordinary Parisian restaurants at 45 Euros a pop.

We also managed to squeeze in a behind-the-scenes tour of the 19th Century basilica.

The 300 steps up to the roof did make me gasp a little, but it was the view of the city sprawled out below which was truly breathtaking.

TRAVEL FACTS

Caroline was a guest of Eurostar which offers London-Lyon return fares, via Lille on Eurostar (08432 186 186, www.eurostar.com) and TGV, from £109.

She stayed at Cour des Loges (0033 4 7277 4444, www.courdesloges.com) where double rooms start at 240 Euros (£200).

Short break operators to Lyon include French Travel (0844 848 8843, www.f-t-s.co.uk) which offers two-nights' B&B at three star Ibis Hotel from £252, including rail travel.



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To the Amos Team,
Just a quick note to thank you for all your help in our recent house move. We have bought and sold with you twice and each time we have been very happy with your service.
We would like to thank Darren and Dorell particularly. You have both always been there to help with all our many queries. Darren helped us by remortgaging our property and within days we

had an offer, so we owe you our thanks.
We would definitely call upon you again if we ever move in the future.
We felt like we were in very good hands and we will certainly recommend Amos to anyone we know who are thinking of moving.

Thank you
Lisa + Neil Sones

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Flat in Britannia Road,

1 double bedroom plus study/office
This newly redecorated and carpeted flat is part of a small secure corner block just a 2 minute walk from Westcliff train station. Decorated in neutral colours this property includes; off street parking for 1 vehicle, a large double room (12.8' x 9.4).

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LEIGH ON SEA £365,000



No Onward Chain

- Contemporary style living accom
- Built 2010
- Open plan lounge
- Luxury planned kitchen/breakfast room
- 3 Bedrooms

Ref: ESH1421

Rochford £195,000



No Onward Chain

- Spacious accommodation
- 2 double bedrooms
- Through lounge/diner
- Fitted kitchen/breakfast room

Ref: ESH1415

Hockley £235,000



Just Reduced

- Modernised and extended
- Spacious lounge/diner
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Newly fitted kitchen/breakfast room

Ref: ESH1419

Hockley £369,950



Many Character Features

- Many character features
- 2 reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room

Ref: ESH1379

Hockley £615,000



Just Reduced

- G/f cloakroom
- Attractive lounge and dining room
- Very well fitted kitchen/breakfast room
- Utility room
- Family room

Ref: ESH1393

Hockley £179,995



No Onward Chain

- Attractive location
- Potential 2 bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Bathroom/wc

Hawkwell £265,000



Just Reduced

- Built in 2000
- Spacious lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- 3 bedrooms
- White bathroom suite

Ref: ESH1336

Hockley £285,995



Totally Refurbished

- Refurbished to a High Standard
- Spacious Lounge
- New Fitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- En-suite Shower Room

Ref: ESH1413

Rochford £210,000



New Instruction

- Excellent Decorative order
- Sun Lounge
- 3 Bedrooms
- En-suite shower Room

Ref: ESH1422

Ashingdon £485,000



Quiet Location

- Sought after location
- Under floor heating
- Double Garage
- 1/2 acre plot
- Delightful south facing garden

Ref: ESH1423

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TO LET Westcliff
£1,200 pcm

3/4 Bed detached chalet style property available early March close to Southend Hospital offering large rear garden and driveway to garage. Working tenants only, pets considered



TO LET Rochford
£650 pcm

WATER RATES INCLUSIVE - Two bed apartment in central Rochford with en-suite to master, gated parking area and integrated appliances - available early March



TO LET Rochford
£795 pcm

Available for immediate occupation is this two bedroom detached bungalow in Rochford offering driveway to detached garage - working tenants only, no pets or DSS



TO LET Eastwood
£895 pcm

Available for immediate occupation is this three bed semi detached offering lounge, dining room and conservatory - keys held for accompanied viewings

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OVER 55's Rochford
£87,950

GROUND FLOOR - Over 55's assisted living apartment for sale as vacant possession in this popular McCarthy and Stone development. Keys held for viewings



NO CHAIN Rochford
£169,995

Character terraced cottage with open views over fields offering good sized rear garden, bespoke hand built wooden kitchen with butter sink and many fine features. No ongoing chain



Ashingdon
£165,000

Modern 2 bed property with garage in popular cul-de-sac location offering lounge/ diner, fitted kitchen and off road parking - early viewing advised

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NO CHAIN South Cambridgeshire
£412,500

6 bed detached executive property with large rear garden in village location offering three receptions and double garage



NO CHAIN Rayleigh
£285,000

Character detached three bed, three reception property in popular Rayleigh location offered with no ongoing chain. Viewing advised



NO CHAIN Rochford
£279,995

STAMP DUTY PAID - 4 bed detached with open views over fields to the front has been completely re-furbished and offers utility room, cloakroom and garage

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22'4 KITCHEN/DINER
16'8 MASTER BEDROOM
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**BENFLEET****£680 pcm**

THREE BEDROOM MAISONETTE
VERY SPACIOUS
MODERNISED & REDECORATED THROUGHOUT
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CLOSE TO LOCAL SHOPS
NON SMOKING WORKING TENANTS ONLY
AVAILABLE NOW

**BENFLEET****£209,995**

TWO BEDROOM BUNGALOW
OFF-STREET PARKING
WEST FACING GARDEN
CONSERVATORY
MODERN TILED BATHROOM
WELL-FITTED KITCHEN
NO ONWARD CHAIN!

**BENFLEET****£249,995**

THREE BEDROOM BUNGALOW
WALKING DISTANCE OF HIGH ROAD
VERY SPACIOUS
DETACHED GARAGE & FURTHER OFF-STREET PARKING
BATHROOM WITH 4-PIECE WHITE SUITE
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**THUNDERSLEY****£239,995**

FOUR BEDROOM CHARACTER HOME
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FIRST FLOOR FAMILY BATHROOM
KITCHEN & UTILITY ROOM
21FT LOUNGE WITH REAL WOOD FLOORING
SEPARATE DINING ROOM
ATTRACTIVE WEST-FACING GARDEN

**THUNDERSLEY****£199,995**

THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS
SOUTH-FACING GARDEN
WALKING DISTANCE OF LOCAL SCHOOLS
SEPARATE DINING ROOM
CONSERVATORY
SOLE AGENT
NO ONWARD CHAIN!

**THUNDERSLEY****£550,000**

VERY SPACIOUS CHALET
IMPRESSIVE WIDE PLOT
HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
OFF THE BENFLEET ROAD
WEST BACKING GARDEN
19'8 SUN LOUNGE
UTILITY ROOM
MUST BE VIEWED

**THUNDERSLEY****£229,995**

LARGE FAMILY HOME
GOOD SIZE ACCOMMODATION
21'4 KITCHEN DINER
GAMES ROOM
CONSERVATORY
UTILITY ROOM
MUST BE VIEWED TO BE FULLY APPRECIATED

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £109,950

Spacious purpose built two bedroom first floor apartment close to Prittlewell Station. Good Size Lounge, double glazing/gas central heating. Allocated off street parking. No onward chain.



WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA £149,950

REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE! Two bed house South Of London Rd. Open plan Lounge/Diner, secured off street parking, close to Town and Station. Ideal first time purchase.



WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA £239,995

Character four bedroom, three reception room family home being sympathetically restored and having many original character features. The property benefits from full gas central heating and has an attractive South backing rear garden.



SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £136,000

An opportunity has arisen to purchase this spacious four bedroom mid terrace family house being situated within a central location close to Southend town centre. The property requires full modernisation and would not be suitable for any persons requiring a high percentage mortgage. Ideal investor/ developer opportunity.



SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £127,000

Being situated within the Heart of the Clifftown Conservation area within close proximity to town, bowling green and Cliff gardens is this immaculate one bedroom retirement bungalow being one of only two of the larger bungalows within the complex. The property is warden controlled and comes with careline facilities.



LEIGH ON SEA £285,000

An opportunity has arisen to purchase this completely refurbished and attractive three double bedroom terrace house situated within a sought after location of Leigh, South of the London Road A13 and close to Leigh Broadway. The property offers spacious accommodation and has the advantage of newly installed kitchen and bathroom along with heating system and double glazing, West backing garden.



CLIFFTOWN CONSERVATION AREA £259,950

Spacious 2nd and 3rd floor Clifftop maisonette within the Clifftown Conservation Ave. Superb extensive views over the Estuary. 21.8 x 18'4' Lounge/Diner, good size kitchen, two double bedrooms, Bathroom incorporating shower cubicle, separate wc.



GREAT WAKERING £186,500

Popular location of Great Wakering backing onto open farmland is this three bedroom end of terrace family house benefiting from three reception rooms and a good size kitchen/diner. The property has full double glazing and there is off street parking to the front. 95% Mortgage available subject to status



WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA £164,995

An opportunity has arisen to purchase this three bedroom mid terrace family house being situated within a popular and central location of Westcliff and benefitting from full double glazing throughout. The property also benefits from a good size rear garden approximately 60' length.



WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA £179,995

We are favoured with instructions to offer for sale this well presented semi-detached bungalow offering spacious accommodation throughout and benefitting from a well maintained South backing rear garden. The property is fully double glazed and there is a good size lounge/diner and two double bedrooms



CONSERVATION AREA BORDERS £225,000

Attractive 2 bed ground and first floor apartment being situated on the sought after Royal Terrace. The property offers spacious accommodation and has spectacular Estuary views from the living room. There is an attractive own rear garden and off street parking. No onward chain.



SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £184,995

We are favoured with instructions to offer for sale this vacant three bedroom semi-detached family house offering two reception rooms. The property benefits from majority newly installed double glazing and gas central heating along with newly installed kitchen and bathroom. The property overlooks Victory sports ground.



LEIGH-ON-SEA £127,950

We are favoured with instructions to offer for sale this one bedroom first floor apartment situated within a pleasant block and sought after location of Leigh, South of Leigh Road and close to Chalkwell mainline railway station. The property offers the advantage of own allocated off street parking and would be ideal for a first time purchase or investment opportunity.

Lettings



MILTON CONSERVATION AREA £700 pcm

Situated within this sought after Milton Conservation Area is this attractive first and second floor 2 bedroom maisonette, quality fitted kitchen with integrated appliances including fridge and freezer, washer/dryer, electric oven and ceramic hob with extractor fan, large lounge/diner, shower room.



SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £525 pcm

Top floor purpose built apartment situated in a central location of Southchurch and benefitting from own allocated parking space via secured electronic gates, lounge with a small front balcony, two bedrooms, bathroom/wc and a fitted kitchen with built in oven and hob with fridge and small freezer to remain.



SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £600 pcm

Spacious first floor flat situated in a central location and popular location of Southchurch, large lounge incorporating fitted kitchen area, two double bedrooms, utility room, bathroom/wc, full gas central heating and double glazing.



SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £58 pcm

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featured property

Rayleigh

- ▶ Price Range
- ▶ En-suite bathroom
- ▶ Study
- ▶ £350,000 - £385,000
- ▶ Garage
- ▶ Modern bathroom & en-suite
- ▶ Four bedrooms
- ▶ Kitchen breakfast room
- ▶ Viewing advised

Offers over £350,000



NEW LISTING

Rochford
£275,000

- ▶ Detached cottage
- ▶ Two receptions
- ▶ Loft room
- ▶ Three bedrooms
- ▶ Conservation area
- ▶ Full of charm

NEW LISTING

Rayleigh
Offers over £235,000

- ▶ Price Range £235,000 - £260,000
- ▶ Three bedrooms

NEW LISTING

Rayleigh
Offers over £400,000

- ▶ Price range £400,000 - £440,000
- ▶ Detached character property
- ▶ Two reception rooms
- ▶ Detached garage
- ▶ En-suite to master bedroom
- ▶ Five bedrooms

NEW LISTING

North Shoebury
Offers over £210,000

- ▶ Price Range £210,000 - £230,000
- ▶ Three bedrooms

NO CHAIN

Rayleigh
£214,950

- ▶ Three bedrooms
- ▶ Garage

Lettings

Southend £700 PCM

Two bedroom 1st floor flat Available immediately
Under ground parking

Rayleigh £695 PCM

Two bedroom ground floor flat
Available from March

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**Clifftown Conservation Area - £500,000**

Magnificent three/four three storey Victorian town house with views over Prittlewell Square. Superb character features. Four reception rooms. Study. Utility room. Kitchen with integrated appliances. Conservatory. En-suite to master bedroom. Private south backing garden. Detached garage.

**Southend Conservation Area - £179,995**

Quality purpose built two bedroom apartment located within walking distance of Cliff gardens and railway station. Spacious open plan kitchen/reception room. En-suite shower room. Quality second bathroom/wc. Double glazing. Secure off street parking. No onward chain. Ideal investment or first time purchase.

**Leigh on Sea - £235,000**

Reduced to sell. Attractive three bedroom semi detached house located in sought after area. Spacious lounge/diner plus second reception and large kitchen/breakfast room. Double glazed. Attached garage. Off street parking. Good decorative order. Excellent value. Must be viewed.

**Rochford - £185,000**

Immaculate two bedroom semi detached bungalow located in a semi rural location. Spacious lounge. Fully fitted kitchen. Conservatory. Double glazed. Gas central heating. Modern bathroom. Parking space. 50' rear garden. Backing onto farmland with extensive views.

**Southend on Sea - £54,995**

One bedroom first floor ex local authority purpose built flat ideally suited to the first time purchaser. Own entrance door. Lounge with fireplace. Modern fitted kitchen. Cloakroom. Kitchen. Shower room/wc. Communal gardens.

**Southend on Sea - £79,950**

Vacant one bedroom ground floor flat located close to Southchurch Road. Lounge with fireplace. Modern fitted kitchen. Cloakroom. En-suite shower room/wc. Gas central heating. Garden. Ideal first purchase or investment.

**Southend on Sea - £152,950**

Vacant four bedroom end terraced house located within close proximity of local shops and Southend East railway station. Lounge. Separate dining room. Fitted kitchen/breakfast room. Ground floor cloakroom. Double glazed. In need of general modernisation and refurbishment.

**Westcliff on Sea - £154,995**

Unique opportunity. One bedroom detached bungalow located within close proximity of Southend Hospital. Lounge. Kitchen. Bathroom/w.c. Double glazed. Gas fired heating. Private garden. No onward chain. Parking via carport.

LETTINGS



HIGHFIELD GARDENS, WESTCLIFF £1,200 PCM
LARGE FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE CLOSE TO SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOLS. Lounge with feature fireplace; Fitted Kitchen. Central Heating. Large Garden. Garage. Off road parking. AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS0 0SX



ST GEORGES PARK AVENUE, WESTCLIFF £850 PCM
NEWLY DECORATED THREE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE CLOSE TO SOUTHCHURCH ROAD. Lounge with feature fireplace; Fitted Kitchen. Central Heating. Large Garden. Garage. Off road parking. AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS0 9UF



BELLE VUE ROAD, SOUTHEND £895 PCM
LARGE FAMILY HOUSE JUST OFF SOUTHCHURCH ROAD: Large Lounge/Diner: Modern fitted Kitchen. Two double, One Single bedroom. Double Glazed. Central Heating. Enclosed Garden. Off Street Parking. AVAILABLE NOW: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS2 4JT



NAPIER AVENUE, SOUTHEND £800 PCM
THREE BEDROOM FAMILY HOME CLOSE TO CLIFF GARDENS: Lounge: Dining Room. Modern Kitchen. Central Heating. Double Glazed. Garden. AVAILABLE NOW: PART OF FULLY FURNISHED: NO PETS: SS1 1LZ



LEIGH HILL, LEIGH ON SEA £1,400 PCM
SUPERB TWO/THREE BEDROOM COTTAGE IN THE HEART OF LEIGH CONSERVATION AREA: Lounge: Dining Room with open fireplace. Fitted Kitchen. Breakfast room. Bed sit. Central Heating. Courtyard garden. AVAILABLE END FEBRUARY: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS9 1AR



ELMER AVENUE, SOUTHEND £595 PCM
GROUND FLOOR TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM FLAT JUST OFF THE TOWN CENTRE: Ent Hall; Lounge; Fitted Kitchen; Central Heating; Private section of garden; AVAILABLE END FEBRUARY: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS1 1NB



PALMEIRA AVENUE, WESTCLIFF £795 PCM
LARGE GROUND FLOOR TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM FLAT CLOSE TO THE SEAFRONT: Lounge with open plan modern fitted kitchen with appliances; bathroom with shower. Central Heating. Parking: Communal gardens. AVAILABLE EARLY MARCH: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS0 7RP



STROMNESS ROAD, SOUTHEND £550 PCM
GOOD SIZE TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR FLAT CLOSE TO HAMLET COURT ROAD SHOPS: Large Lounge; Modern Kitchen; Economy 7 heating; Double Glazed; Shared Garden: AVAILABLE NOW: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS2 4JG



BURDETT AVENUE, WESTCLIFF £595 PCM
LARGE FIRST FLOOR FLAT CLOSE TO VICTORIA STATION: Secu Ent: Lounge: Kitchen with oven & hob: One double, One single bedroom; shower room / wc: Central Heatings: AVAILABLE NOW: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS0 7JN



ROOTS HALL DRIVE, SOUTHEND £650 PCM
GROUND FLOOR FLAT CLOSE TO VICTORIA STATION: Secu Ent: Lounge: Kitchen with oven & hob: One double, One single bedroom: shower room / wc: Central Heatings: Double Glazing: AVAILABLE NOW: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS2 6HL



WHITEGATE ROAD, SOUTHEND £625 PCM
TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR FLAT LOCATED CLOSE TO SOUTHEND TOWN CENTRE: Lounge: Fitted Kitchen: Central Heating: Garden: AVAILABLE NOW: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS1 2LF



BRITANNIA ROAD, WESTCLIFF £595 PCM
TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR FLAT CLOSE TO WESTCLIFF MAINLINE RAILWAY STATION: Large Lounge; Modern Kitchen: Central Heating: AVAILABLE NOW: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: IDEAL FOR TWO SHARERS: SS0 8DS



ARGYLL ROAD, WESTCLIFF £550 PCM
TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR REAR MAISONETTE CLOSE TO HAMLET COURT ROAD: Lounge with open plan fitted Kitchen with built-in oven & hob: Laminated Flooring: Central Heating: Garden: AVAILABLE NOW: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS0 7HL



WARRICK ROAD, THORPE BAY £675 PCM
GROUND FLOOR FLAT CLOSE TO SEAFRONT: Lounge with access to rear garden: Modern kitchen with oven & hob: One double, one single bedroom: Central Heating: Parking: Garden: AVAILABLE NOW: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS1 3BN



EASTERN ESPANADE, SOUTHEND £750 PCM
SELF CONTAINED TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR FLAT CLOSE TO SEAFRONT: Secu Ent: Large Lounge: Modern Kitchen: Shower room: Central Heating: Double Glazed: Parking: Garage: AVAILABLE NOW: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS1 2YP



EASTERN ESPANADE, SOUTHEND £725 PCM
TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR FLAT CLOSE TO EAST BEACH: Lounge: Modern Kitchen: Shower room: Central Heating: Double Glazed: Parking: Garage: AVAILABLE NOW: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS1 2YH



HIGH STREET, SHOEBURY £625 PCM
TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR FLAT CLOSE TO EAST BEACH: Lounge: Kitchen with appliances: Master bedroom with en-suite: Bathroom with shower: Wooden floors to hall and lounge, carpets to remainder. AVAILABLE NOW: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS3 9AS



ROYAL MEWS, SOUTHEND £750 PCM
TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM GRND FL APARTMENT IN THE HEART OF SOUTHEND: Video entry system: Lounge: Kitchen with appliances: Master bedroom with en-suite: Bathroom with shower: Wooden floors to hall and lounge, carpets to remainder. AVAILABLE NOW: UNFURNISHED: NO PETS: SS1 1DB

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THUNDERSLEY

£232,500

Extended semi-detached chalet offering 4 bedrooms, 22'3 lounge, L-shaped kitchen/diner, ground floor cloakroom, and detached garage. The property is situated in a cul-de-sac location within easy reach of the amenities and road links at the Rayleigh Weir.

LEIGH-ON-SEA
£245,000

Extended family home offering 3 bedrooms, 20ft lounge/diner, second reception room, 20ft kitchen/breakfast room, and bathroom with separate w/c. The property benefits from double glazing, garage, off street parking, gas heating (n/t) and is offered with no onward chain.

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THUNDERSLEY

£160,000

Two bedroom groundfloor retirement apartment located in the heart of Thundersley village, with a 17ft lounge, modern fitted kitchen, two good sized bedrooms and double glazing. Residence communal lounge and conservatory overlooking the gardens. No chain.

CANVEY
ISLAND
£850 PCM

Detached bungalow having undergone some redecoration/refurbishment offering two bedrooms, lounge, separate dining room, 18'4 kitchen, 4 piece bathroom suite & a loft room. The property has gas heating (n/t), double glazing and new carpets.



Leigh-on-Sea

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LETSHOEBURY
£750 PCM

A three bedroom end terraced house with modern kitchen and bathroom, L-shaped lounge/diner, ground floor cloakroom, double glazing and gas heating (n/t) situated within easy reach of local amenities, schools and bus routes.

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £99,999

First floor flat
One bedroom
Well presented

CLOSE TO UNIVERSITY



WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA £112,000

First Floor Apartment
One Bedroom
Kitchen/Diner

LARGE LOFT ROOM



SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £114,995

One Double Bedroom
Modern Fitted Kitchen
Spacious Bathroom

CLOSE TO SEAFRONT



WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA £149,995

Three Bedrooms
Off Road Parking
Own Private Garden

GARDEN & PARKING



WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA £164,995

Three Double Bedrooms
Two Reception Rooms
Large Fully Fitted Kitchen

FAMILY HOME



SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £179,995

Two Bedrooms
Estuary Views from Balcony
Security Entry System

SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION



WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA £235,000

Two Receptions
Master with wc en-suite
Off Street Parking

FIVE BEDROOMS



LEIGH ON SEA £244,995

Four Bedrooms
Reception Hall
Large Lounge

SPACIOUS



CANVEY ISLAND £165,000

Three Double Bedrooms
Modern Decorated Lounge
Fitted Kitchen

THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS



CANVEY ISLAND £174,995

Canvey Island
Two Bedroom
Detached Bungalow

PRICED TO SELL



WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA £279,995

Three Bedrooms
Spacious Fitted Kitchen
Detached Garage

BREATHTAKING VIEWS

LETTINGS

SOUTHEND ON SEA £475pcm

One bedroom first floor flat in the heart of Southend benefiting from double glazing and gas central heating. Available 28th February 2011.

WESTCLIFF ON SEA £500pcm

Spacious one bedroom first floor flat close to local amenities and Westcliff station. Housing benefit considered. Available Now.

WESTCLIFF ON SEA £500pcm

One bedroom basement flat with it's own entrance door and direct access to the rear garden. Located close to all amenities. Available end of Feb.

WESTCLIFF ON SEA £550pcm

Recently decorated two bedroom ground floor flat close to Westcliff station. Housing benefit considered. Available Now.

WESTCLIFF ON SEA £550pcm

Two bedroom first floor flat in an ideal location for Southend hospital and transport links. Gas central heating and double glazing. Available Now.

LEIGH ON SEA £775pcm

Fully refurbished second floor purpose built flat with allocated off street parking overlooking Leigh Broadway. Available Now. Working Applicants Only.



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Close to Hadleigh Shops, Two Bedrooms, 75' Rear Garden,
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NO ONWARD CHAIN.

£179,950



OPEN HOME Sunday 13th February 12pm - 1pm

8 Bowers Road, Benfleet, SS7 5PZ

South of the A13, Kents Hill Road School Catchment, 16'1 x 15'4 Lounge, Dining Room Open Planned to Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, 60ft South Backing Garden, Detached Garage with Utility Facilities

£225,000

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OPEN HOME Sunday 13th February 2pm - 3pm

3 Dubarry Close, Benfleet, SS7 3AJ

Good Decorative Order, 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow, 100ft Rear Garden, King John Catchment Area, Quiet Cul-De-Sac Location, Near Thundersley Village.
NO ONWARD CHAIN

£214,995



OPEN HOME Sunday 13th February 3.30pm - 4.30pm

107 Common Lane, Benfleet, SS7 3RY

Goodsized Three Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow, Impressive 23'10ft Lounge/Diner, Close to Thundersley Village, Off Street Parking, Fitted Kitchen.

£202,000

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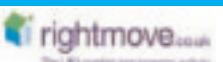




797 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea

Essex SS0 9SY

Tel: 01702 476184/712854 Fax: 01702 712854

**SOMERSET ESTATE WESTCLIFF £285,000**

Realistically Priced, 3 Bedrooms, Semi Detached House, 2 Receptions, Kitchen, Sun Lounge, Bathroom, WC, Garage and Parking.

**LEIGH £265,000**

Excellent Semi Detached House, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Reception Rooms, Attractive Garden, Ample Garage Space and Parking. Must Be Viewed.

**WESTCLIFF £530,000**

Character Detached House, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Reception Rooms, Garden, Garage, Parking. Many Added Features. No Onward Chain.

**SOMERSET ESTATE £285,000**

Character, Detached Bungalow, 2 Bedrooms, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Secluded Garden, Garage, No Onward Chain.

**WINSFORD GARDENS WESTCLIFF £315,000**

Semi Detached Bungalow, Sought After Area, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, 2 Bedrooms, Loft Room, Bathroom/w.c., Garden, Garage etc.

**SOMERSET ESTATE £324,950**

Semi Detached Chalet Bungalow, 2 Receptions, 4 Bedrooms (En-Suite to Master Bedroom), Cloakroom/Utility Room, Garage, Garden.

**SOMERSET ESTATE £347,500**

Delightful, Character, 4 Bed Semi Detached House, 2 Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Secluded Garden, Garage and Parking. Must Be Viewed.

**WESTCLIFF £98,000**

Excellent, Spacious First Floor Flat, Large Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom/w.c., Available Early Occupation.

**WESTCLIFF £169,500**

Excellent Semi Detached House, Central Westcliff, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Shower Room/w.c., Early Inspection Recommended.

**WESTCLIFF £159,000**

3 Bed Mid Terraced House, Close to all amenities, Through Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, No Onward Chain, Recommended.

**WESTCLIFF £129,950**

Excellent, Spacious, Character 2 Bedroom First Floor Flat, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Close to all amenities. Must Be Viewed.

**KINGSWELL, CHALKWELL HALL ESTATE £136,500**

Ground Floor Retirement Flat, Residential Block, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Bedroom, Shower w.c., Communal Lounge and Laundry Facilities.

**WESTCLIFF £85,000 O.N.O.**

Excellent Second Floor Flat situated in popular Retirement Block, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom/w.c., Laundry Facilities etc.

**BENFLEET £172,950**

Realistically Priced Semi Detached Bungalow, Convenient For Station, 2 Bedrooms, Lounge, Secluded Garden, Parking, Recommended.

**WESTCLIFF £222,500**

3 Bed Semi Detached House on Corner Plot, 2 Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Ample Garage Space and Additional Parking. Must Be Viewed.



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**Rochford****£232,995**

Three Bedrooms
Immaculate Condition
Ground floor cloakroom
Upvc double glazed conservatory
Fitted kitchen
Utility Room

**Rochford****£199,995**

Open House 12th February 2011 between 11am - 12 noon -
55 Westbury, Rochford, Essex - Just Turn up and view.
Three Bedrooms
UPVC double glazed conservatory
No onward chain
Modern kitchen and bathroom Off street parking

**Ashingdon****£285,000**

Open Home Saturday 12th February 2011 94 Clifton Road,
Ashingdon, Essex - Just turn up and view.
Four bed family home
18' lounge - Dining room
approx 100' garden
Garage No onward chain

**Hockley****£204,995**

Two Bedrooms
Approx 47ft Wide
plot
11'7 x 11'1 fitted
kitchen
Detached Garage
Convenient location
16'9 lounge
Conservatory viewing
advised

**Rochford****£94,995**

Ground floor assisted living
One Bedroom
PX possible
No onward chain
Modern Kitchen and bathroom
Communal areas

**Rochford****£149,950**

Two Bedrooms
Rear Garden
21'3 Lounge / diner
No onward chain

**Rochford****£93,000**

One / Two bedrooms
Own Rear Garden
Gas Central heating
Off road parking

**Rochford****£184,995**

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extended
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bungalow
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Thorpe Bay Boarders

Two Double Bedrooms
Detached Home
Close To Sea Front
Utility Area

£164,995



Southend-On-Sea

Five Double Bedrooms
Double Fronted Bungalow
Good Size Plot
En-Suite To Master

£239,995

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Due to unprecedented SALES in December and January, we urgently require all types of property for approved waiting applicants. Ring Mike, Laurence, or Philip for an informal chat.

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Thorpe Bay

£264,995

Three Bedrooms
Integral Garage
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100ft Garden
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Kitchen/Diner
Ample Off Street
Parking

Thorpe Bay

£294,995

Four Bedrooms
Detached House
Moments From
Seafront
Close To Local
Amenities

Large Lounge/Diner
Conservatory
Ample Off Street
Parking
No Onward Chain



Thorpe Bay

£294,995

Four Bedrooms
Detached House
Moments From
Seafront
Close To Local
Amenities

Large Lounge/Diner
Conservatory
Ample Off Street
Parking
No Onward Chain

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Located on a very busy main road in Leigh, close to major secondary school and surrounded by other businesses. Bright attractive premises, fully equipped to trade. Turnover - £1,600 - £2,000 per week. Rent £10,000 per annum.

£39,950 Leasehold Ref: C/272



BUSY THEMED STEAKHOUSE, BRENTWOOD, ESSEX

Themed Steakhouse Restaurant, regular customer base, fully refurbished. Grade II listed, two floors giving 60 covers, excellent opportunity, serious buyers only. Rent £21,500 pa. REDUCED BY £25,000 FOR QUICK SALE.

£69,995 leasehold + sav. Ref: C/257



FRIED CHICKEN/BURGER & KEBAB TAKEAWAY, SOUTHEND

Excellent location, extensive takeaway/delivery menu, £3/4,000 pw turnover, spotlessly maintained, 20 covers, rent £9,000 pa. 3 bedroom accommodation.

£99,995 Leasehold + sav. Ref: C/270



GENUINE PIZZA TAKEAWAY – SOUTHDEN ON SEA

Newly fitted kitchen, wide spread reputation, established business with fantastic turnover, long lease, prominent main road location. Rent £11,000 per annum. Reasonable offers considered.

£64,995 Leasehold + sav. Ref: C/271



We urgently require all types of businesses for registered applicants, **ESPECIALLY** Catering, Licensed and News/Con/Tob Call today on **01702 602888** for free valuation



SNACK BAR/CAFE/TAKAWAY, MARKET LOCATION, SOUTH ESSEX

Busy market location, four days trading only, huge potential, under cover seating, easy hours, in and out licence, must be viewed, could open evenings. Purchaser to pay agent's fee.

£15,000 licence + sav - Ref: C/252



WELL ESTABLISHED FLORISTS – SOUTHDEN TOWN CENTRE

Genuine retirement sale, same hands 20 years, trial period, excellent location, suitable for catering (stip), close to night clubs, must be seen, new lease, possible 3 bed flat, huge basement.

£25,000 Leasehold + sav. Ref: F/262



BUSY POST OFFICE, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX

Established Post Office in busy residential area, situated within parade of shops, currently undergoing refurbishment, massive scope to expand shop sales, PO salary £40,000 pa. 17 years remaining on lease at £9,000 pa. MUST BE VIEWED.

£89,995 Leasehold + sav. REF: PO/273



MODERN LADIES CLOTHES SHOP, SOUTH EAST ESSEX

Ideal Location, secure lease, well established, excellent turnover, good gross profit, easily run, two parking spaces, ideal first buy.

£29,995 leasehold + sav. Ref: M/246


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HADLEIGH £249,995

- * Attractive detached bungalow
- * Dual aspect lounge/diner
- * Spacious reception hall
- * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Three bedrooms

- * 3pce modern bathroom suite with double electric shower
- * Requires modernisation
- * West facing garden
- * Garage & own driveway
- * No onward chain

SOLE
AGENTS



THUNDERSLEY £229,995

- * Exceptionally large semi detached house
- * Located in popular elevated turning
- * Distant views over farmland
- * Separate sitting room
- * Large lounge/diner
- * Modern kitchen
- * Three bedrooms
- * Unoverlooked garden
- * Garage/study



NEW ON
MARKET
SOLE AGENTS



SOUTHCHURCH £159,995

- * Charming character house
- * Short walk to local shops & bus routes
- * Lounge
- * Separate dining room
- * Recently refitted kitchen

- * Two bedrooms
- * 3pce family bathroom
- * UPVC double glazing
- * Good decorative order



NEW ON
MARKET
SOLE AGENTS



THUNDERSLEY £229,995

- * Three bedroom detached house
- * Large lounge
- * Separate dining room
- * Good sized kitchen/breakfast room
- * Conservatory
- * Driveway & Garage to rear
- * Double glazed windows
- * Requires modernisation



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separate utility. All three bedrooms are doubles, the master benefiting from its own dressing room & en-suite bathroom & further washing facilities are provided via a guest 4pce bathroom. These

storey annexe offers two bedrooms, bathrooms on both ground and first floor, modern kitchen & good sized lounge/diner. The grounds are mature and well stocked with numerous outbuildings, stores, summerhouses etc. & and unusually features its own natural pond and views over surrounding farmland. Due to the rarity of this type of property, offers are invited by Informal written Tenders which must be received at our offices by the 16th April 2011.

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HADLEIGH £650 pcm

- * One bedroom first floor flat
- * Open plan lounge/kitchen
- * Fitted kitchen with white goods
- * Communal decking area
- * Allocated parking
- * Available mid February 2011



LEIGH ON SEA £795 pcm

- * Two bedroom ground floor flat
- * Fitted kitchen with white goods
- * Three pce bathroom with shower cubicle only



HADLEIGH £920 pcm

- * Three bedroom semi detached bungalow
- * Refurbished throughout.
- * Large lounge with fireplace. Kitchen breakfast room.



HADLEIGH £695 pcm

- * Two bedroom ground floor flat
- * Lounge with french doors.
- * Fitted kitchen with oven and hob



BENFLEET £625 pcm

- * Two bed first floor flat
- * Kitchen with oven
- * Large lounge



SOUTHEND £1,150 pcm

- * 3 bed spacious character house
- * Fitted kitchen
- * Lounge
- * Dining room
- * Garage with drive
- * Garden and summerhouse



HADLEIGH £925 pcm

- * Three bedroom semi-detached house.
- * Two double bedrooms, one small single.
- * Lounge with feature fireplace
- * Open plan fitted kitchen/dining room
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NEW INSTRUCTION

SOUTHCHURCH VILLAGE

£114,995

A stunning ground floor flat offering a thousand year lease and share of freehold. The property is very well presented and offers spacious, modern accommodation throughout. NO ONWARD CHAIN!



NEW INSTRUCTION

THORPE BAY BORDER

£275,000 OIEO

50% of Stamp Duty paid. A recently refurbished detached bungalow on the Wick Development. Offering three bedrooms, lounge/diner, four piece bathroom suite, garden, workshop and much more!



NEW INSTRUCTION

WICK ESTATE

£255,000

A modern semi detached home offering 3 bedrooms, parking with garage, kitchen, bathroom, ground floor wc, oversized lounge/diner and secluded rear garden. Sought after location. NO ONWARD CHAIN!



NEW INSTRUCTION

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

£289,995

Superb family home with spacious accommodation throughout, en-suite to master bedroom, conservatory, two reception rooms and double garage. Cul-de-sac location. Viewing essential!



NEW INSTRUCTION

BOURNES GREEN PARK

£165,000

Semi detached home offers three reception rooms which includes a conservatory and kitchen. Three bedrooms. Parking to front, close to park, shops and is fully double glazed. No onward chain!

Sellers often approach us after an unsatisfactory experience with another agent, particularly in relation to poor levels of feedback following property viewings. Surely prompt and constructive feedback should be a fundamental part of any estate agent's service to their clients! Only when agents understand what buyers think of a property can they deliver practical advice that will enhance its sale prospects. The agent and the seller should be working hand-in-hand to achieve the desired outcome, based significantly on buyers' comments. We also understand the seller's anguish in simply not knowing whether a sale is imminent following a viewing. Sometimes, feedback is obviously positive: "When can you move out?" is clearly a strong buying signal; "What are the neighbours like?", "Could I bring my partner round?" or "Will you be leaving that cupboard?" certainly indicate that the property is a distinct possibility, and a good agent should be able to move this interest towards a firm offer. Some feedback can be helpful in confirming whether the asking price is positioned correctly in the market. Buyers buy by comparison, and sometimes a swift price adjustment can be imperative to avoid the house going stale on the market. For example, "The property is too small for us" usually means, "We have seen larger houses for the same price". "The street is too busy" usually means "We've seen similarly priced properties in quieter streets". Of course, many people are just being polite when they say, "We'll think about it", or "I'm sure you'll find a buyer easily". The key to good estate agency is identifying which comments point to a sale, which point to a negotiation, and which point to a problem with the price. And we think sellers deserve to know, via prompt and supportive feedback.



NEW INSTRUCTION

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

£275,000

A five bedroom residence with character, from its entrance hall, feature high ceilings, original fireplaces and contemporary decor. Other benefits include 3 receptions rooms, bathroom and large garden.



RECENT INSTRUCTION

SOUTHCHURCH VILLAGE

£230,000 OIEO

Thorpe-bay side of Southchurch Park is this 1930's character home offering four bedrooms, parking, two receptions, kitchen, bathroom and would suit a growing family really well! A MUST SEE!



NO CHAIN

LEIGH-ON-SEA

£199,995

Providing generous flexible accommodation this detached, set back, two bedroom bungalow located in a residential road. This bungalow enjoys a 100ft secluded rear garden, garage and plenty of parking.



NEW INSTRUCTION

LEIGH-ON-SEA £825 PCM

Well presented bungalow offering two bedrooms, two receptions, ample parking and 45ft rear garden. Properties of this nature are rare at present. Unfurnished - Available March - Call to arrange viewing!



TO RENT

SOUTHCHURCH VILLAGE

£600 PCM

This 1st floor apartment has a double bedroom with a loft room! The property benefits from parking, communal garden, secure entry phone system, good size living area. Unfurnished Available now.

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RAYLEIGH	£490,000	RAYLEIGH	£292,500	RAYLEIGH	£249,995	RAYLEIGH	£160,000	HOCKLEY	£339,999		
	NEW INSTRUCTION		Three bedroom detached property located on a private road on the Birds development within 1/2 mile of Rayleigh mainline station. Benefits include en suite to master, conservatory and lounge measuring 18'. NO ONWARD CHAIN.		Four bedroom semi-detached property located in the Fitzwimarc catchment area of Rayleigh which benefits from having a 19' lounge, 17' kitchen/diner and a garage. The property also benefits from having no onward chain. Early inspection recommended.		Modern two bedroom ground floor apartment which benefits from having its own rear garden. It is located in the heart of Rayleigh town centre. Early viewing is recommended.		Dating back approximately 600 years is this three bedroom detached cottage which is situated within the heart of Hockley. The property boasts many features which include a vaulted beamed ceiling to the lounge, dining area, kitchen, utility room and four piece bathroom.		
 	We are delighted to offer for sale this modern five/six bedroom detached house which benefits from having lounge, dining room, study and a further sitting room and two en-suites, double garage and off-street parking for several vehicles.	EASTWOOD	£149,995		NEW INSTRUCTION we are pleased to offer for sale this one bedroom starter house which benefits from having its own garden and off street parking.		Bentle - Connells are pleased to offer for sale this four bedroom two reception room detached property which benefits from having double glazed windows, 21' lounge and integral garage.		Connells are pleased to offer for sale this two bedroom well maintained mid-terrace property located on the popular Birds Development of Rayleigh.		
HULLBRIDGE	£250,000	HULLBRIDGE	£214,995	RAYLEIGH	£245,000	RAYLEIGH	Offers over £215,000	LEIGH ON SEA	£269,999	RAYLEIGH	£174,995
	Situated on a good size corner plot is this extended three bedroom detached house available with no onward chain. The property offers ample parking a 45 ft square rear garden and conservatory.		Situated in Hullbridge is this three bedroom semi-detached property offering fitted kitchen, ground floor cloakroom, integral garage with driveway parking. NO ONWARD CHAIN. The property is located 3.5 miles from Rayleigh Railway Station with direct links to London Liverpool Street.		Benefiting from having a rear garden which measures 190 ft and backs onto playing fields is this 1930's built semi detached chalet style property. Double glazing and central heating and lies within the Fitzwimarc and Edward Francis catchment areas.		Available with no onward chain is this two bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated in an established and sought after area. The property offers two double bedrooms, lounge, two conservatories, and an established 65 ft approx rear garden.		Maintained to a high standard by the present Vendor is this detached bungalow which is located within a quiet cul-de-sac and within easy access of Belfairs Wood & Golf Course. Early internal viewing is strongly recommended to appreciate the size and standard of accommodation on offer.		This two bedroome semi detached bungalow is situated within walking distance of Rayleigh mainline station. The property offers lounge, fitted kitchen, off road parking and detached garage, 65ft approx rear garden, UPVC double glazing.
RAYLEIGH	£235,000	THUNDERSLEY	£269,950	WAS £95,000	£85,000	HULLBRIDGE					
	A modern three bedroom semi-detached house which benefits from having ground floor cloakroom, en-suite to bedroom one, garage and driveway parking.		Connells are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom detached bungalow which benefits from having lounge, kitchen, utility room, lean-to, garage and driveway parking.		Leigh-On-Sea. Price Range £85,000 - £95,000. One double bedroom warden controlled retirement apartment situated in this desirable complex. The complex boasts a laundry room with machines and dryers, communal lounge area with kitchen, well maintained gardens, lifts to all floors and communal parking.		NEW INSTRUCTION Three bedroom semi-detached house located in the village of Hullbridge which benefits from having a 23' kitchen/diner, conservatory and 70' rear garden and driveway parking.				

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HAWKWELL £199,995

We are pleased to offer for sale this two/three bedroom semi-detached family home. The property is double glazed, has gas radiator heating and conveniently situated within walking distance of the village, local schools and station. EWH3810

Sales Office 01702 200666



ASHINGDON £219,995

A five bedroom semi-detached chalet offering deceptively spacious accommodation including a lounge/diner 24'11" x 13'3", double glazed conservatory, ground floor shower room and a first floor bathroom. EWH3794

Sales Office 01702 200666



RAYLEIGH £425,000

Gloucester Avenue, Rayleigh. Currently under construction by reputable local builders, K W Jones & Son (Rayleigh) Ltd, and situated in a private mews consisting of only four properties is this four bedroom detached family home. The property has three reception rooms, en-suite bathroom to bedroom one, en-suite shower room to bedroom two and a family bathroom. Nearing completion, keys available for immediate viewing.

Sales Office 01702 200666



HAWKWELL £255,000

BUILDING PLOT - Approximately 46ft wide by 130ft deep. Plans have been passed for a four bedroom detached chalet with three reception rooms in an excellent location very close to local schools, shops, Hockley Woods and a main line railway station. Planning Application No: 10/00495/FUL. For further information please contact the office.

Sales Office 01702 200666



HULLBRIDGE £299,995

A four bedroom detached bungalow with two reception rooms, benefitting from an established 48ft by 75ft deep rear garden and having a summerhouse and garage. The property is located in a quiet semi-rural location but is only a short distance of local amenities. An internal viewing is strongly advised. EWH3842

Sales Office 01702 200666



HOCKLEY £169,995

We are pleased to offer for sale this two bedroom terraced house on the popular Darts Farm development which benefits from a 51ft West facing rear garden and having its own allocated parking for several vehicles. The property is situated very close to local station, shops and schools and is offered with no onward chain. Viewing strongly advised. EWH3847

Sales Office 01702 200666



HOCKLEY £199,995

An exclusive two bedroom second floor penthouse. Features include video entry phone system, luxury contemporary style kitchen, ensuite to bedroom one, oak panelled doors, radiator heating, integrated appliances, communal gardens and allocated parking. EWH3718

Sales Office 01702 200666



HOCKLEY £219,950

We are pleased to offer for sale this extended three bedroom semi-detached chalet located in a popular residential location within walking distance to local schools, shops and mainline railway station. Viewing strongly advised. EWH3831

Sales Office 01702 200666



HAWKWELL £220,000

We are pleased to offer for sale this two bedroom semi-detached bungalow with a rear garden measuring in excess of 100ft deep. The property includes a lounge 21'6" x 10', dining area 12' x 10', kitchen/breakfast room 13'8" x 10'8" and a lotti room 13' x 8'4". EWH3774

Sales Office 01702 200666



HOCKLEY £239,995

A character 1950's built four bedroom semi-detached family home on the popular Broadlands Development situated close to shops, schools and a main line railway station. The property is set back 57ft from the road and benefits from a kitchen/breakfast room fitted in 2009. Offered with early vacant possession. EWH3845

Sales Office 01702 200666



HOCKLEY £234,995

Constructed in 2001 and presented in excellent decorative order is this two bedroom detached bungalow with a newly installed double glazed conservatory. The property backs directly on the open fields with far reaching views and is a short distance of mainline railway station and shops.

Sales Office 01702 200666



HAWKWELL £275,000

Presented in immaculate condition is this four bedroom semi-detached family home which benefits from being set back 62ft from the road providing ample off-street parking. The property has two reception rooms and a west facing rear garden measuring 85ft. The property is close to local shops, schools and a main line railway station. An internal viewing is strongly recommended. EWH3844

Sales Office 01702 200666

Sales 01702 200666

Lettings 01702 200313



ROCHFORD £495 pcm

UNFURNISHED ONE BED GROUND FLOOR FLAT. NEW ELECTRIC COOKER. CLOSE TO STATION AND SHOPS. AVAILABLE MID FEBRUARY. EMPLOYED TENANTS AND NON SMOKERS ONLY.



ASHINGDON £1,400 pcm

UNFURNISHED FOUR BED HOUSE IN QUIET LOCATION WITH 120' GARDEN. AVAILABLE LATE FEBRUARY. NON SMOKERS ONLY. PETS CONSIDERED. GARAGE EXCLUDED.



SOUTHEND ON SEA £795 pcm

2 DOUBLE BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR FLAT WITH ESTUARY VIEWS. AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY. NO PETS, NON SMOKERS. WOULD SUIT MATURE TENANTS.



ROCHFORD £875 pcm

SHORT TERM LET. UNFURNISHED THREE BED DETACHED HOUSE WITH CARPORT. CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE. NO PETS AND NON SMOKERS. AVAILABLE MID FEBRUARY.



ROCHFORD £420 pcm

FIRST FLOOR STUDIO FLAT CONVENIENT FOR STATION AND OFFERED WITH MAIN FURNISHINGS. EMPLOYED TENANTS AND NON SMOKERS ONLY. AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY.



ROCHFORD £800 pcm

TWO/THREE BEDROOM END TERRACED TOWN HOUSE IN VERY GOOD ORDER. AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY. NO PETS, NON SMOKERS, NO YOUNG CHILDREN.



WESTCLIFF £550 pcm

UNFURNISHED PURPOSE BUILT FIRST FLOOR ONE BEDROOM FLAT. CLOSE TO THE SEAFRONT AND STATION. AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY. BENEFIT CONSIDERED.



HOCKLEY £400 pcm

FIRST FLOOR STUDIO FLAT WITH PARKING. AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY. FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED. NON-SMOKERS ONLY.



RAYLEIGH £775 pcm

MODERN UNFURNISHED TWO MID TERRACED HOUSE WITH TWO PARKING SPACES, AVAILABLE END FEBRUARY. CONVENIENT FOR RAYLEIGH STATION. NO PETS.



GARAGE FOR RENT £50 pcm

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Paul Dune
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Debbie Brumwell
Property Consultant



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**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

RAYLEIGH £179,995
Two bedroom semi detached bungalow, Carter and ward built, Detached garage at rear, Modernisation required, Highly sought after & convenient location, No onward chain, Viewing highly recommended

**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

BENFLEET £199,995
Super two bedroom semi detached chalet, 21'4" living room, Stunning kitchen / dining room, Ground floor cloakroom, Approximately 90' rear garden, upvc double glazing throughout, Viewing absolutely essential

RAYLEIGH OIEO £200,000
Sole Agents. Attractive Fully Detached Bungalow in need of modernisation, situated in Popular and convenient area. 2 Beds, 20' x 11'.11" Lounge, 13' x 10' Kitchen, Double Glazing, Bath/WC, Rear Garden, Parking at Rear. Rare Opportunity. Details Available.

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA £205,000
Sole Agents. Deceptively Spacious Beautifully Appointed Family House Incorporating Many Fine Features Throughout, Close All Amenities, Superb 18' x 13'.7" max Bedroom / Loftroom, 17' Master Bedroom, Further Double Bed, 2 Elegant Recep's, Fitted Kitchen, Upvc Double Glazing, Bath/WC, Delightful Garden, Viewing EsSential.

REDUCED

RAYLEIGH £205,000
A spacious fully detached two bedroom bungalow in need of modernisation. Offering much scope and potential, situated in this sought after established residential area. Key held. No onward chain.

**Can You Help?
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RAYLEIGH £210,000
This is a superb 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow decorated to a high standard and situated in a sought after location within walking distance of Rayleigh mainline station. The owners have obviously taken great care to create a delightful home and garden with many features worthy of inspection.

RAYLEIGH £235,000
An immaculately presented three bedroom semi detached house situated in the popular and convenient bird's estate. Accommodation include ground floor cloakroom, two reception rooms and an en-suite to master bedroom. Viewing of this fine home is essential.

EASTWOOD OIEO £250,000
Popular Location Close Green Lane. An Attractive Well Planned Link Detached Family Home Comprising 4 Beds, Ground Floor Shower Room, 19'4" Fitted Kitchen./Diner, 20'1 x 13'6" Lounge, Double Glazing, Bath/WC, Rear Garden and Garage, Highly Recommended.

**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

RAYLEIGH £279,995
Four bedroom detached house, Immaculately maintained throughout, Popular and central location, Ground floor cloakroom, Impressive kitchen, Conservatory, Viewing essential

RAYLEIGH £374,995
We are delighted to offer for sale this Tudor style detached chalet with a wealth of charm and character situated in a highly sought after location within easy reach of Rayleigh high street and station. The property features a delightful large mature rear garden. We strongly recommend an internal viewing.

RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS

GREAT WAKERING £525PCM
A one bedroom first floor flat with its own rear garden and garage. The property is available as unfurnished and is within walking distance to the high street.

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RAYLEIGH £625PCM
Built in 2007, this one bedroom, ground floor flat has its own parking space and rear garden, and is situated close to Rayleigh station. Call now to view.

RAYLEIGH £775PCM
Built in 2006, this two bedroom maisonette is situated off rawreth lane, close to the new Rayleigh leisure centre and asda. Unfurnished. Earliest appointment to view advised.

RAYLEIGH £825PCM
This is a superbly maintained two bedroom house located on the ever popular little wheatleys development. The property is available to working tenants only in early march.

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**Hadleigh £345,000**

Three To Five Bedroom Detached Chalet - Lounge 13'2 x 12'0 - Sitting Room 14'11 x 10'11 - Dinning Room 15'4 x 11'11 - Fully Fitted Kitchen 16'3 x 10'10 - Ground Floor Bathroom - Bedroom One 14'8 x 11'4 - Bedroom Two 14'4 x 7'2 - Bedroom Three 9'6 x 7'6 - Mainly Double Glazed Throughout - Full Gas Central Heating - Extremely Well Maintained - Award Winning Rear Garden - Off Street Parking - Sole Agents - Popular and Sought After south of A13 Location - Easy Access Of Hadleigh Town Centre And Local Country Walks - Viewing Advised

01702 555888



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**Daws Heath, Hadleigh £400,000**

Five Bedroom Detached Family Home - Lounge 16'11 x 11'1 - Sitting Room 15'0 x 11'11 - Dining Room 12'9 x 8'10 - Luxury Fitted Kitchen With Granite Work Surfaces, Range Style Cooker, Dishwasher And Fridge Freezer To Remain 12'4 x 8'4 - Ground Floor Cloakroom - Double Glazed Throughout - Gas Central Heating - Conservatory 24'1 x 8'6 - Bedroom One 12'0 x 11'5 - Bedroom Two 12'6 x 8'4 - Bedroom Three 11'6 x 9'10 - Bedroom Four 10'0 x 9'5 - Bedroom Five 7'8 x 8'6 - Master Bedroom Having En-suite Bathroom - Extremely Well Maintained - Centralised Vacuum Cleaning System - Beautifully Landscaped Rear Garden - Popular Daws Heath Location - Sole Agents - Viewing Essential

01702 555888

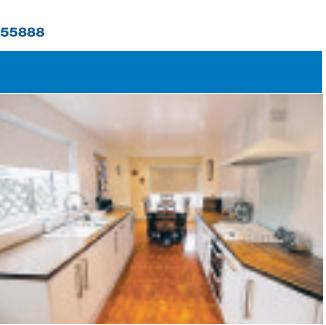
Attractive Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow - Sought After Location - Lounge 13'6 x 12'0 - Kitchen 9'10 x 7'2 - Dining Room 11'0 x 9'11 - Storage/Utility Area 9'6 x 5'11 - Conservatory 13'9 x 9'9 - Bedroom One 15'8 x 9'11 - Bedroom Two 13'6 x 9'4 - Three Piece Bathroom Suite - Good Size Rear Garden - Off Street Parking - Easy Access Of Hadleigh Town Centre - General Modernisation Required - Sole Agents - Viewing Advised

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**Scrub Lane, Hadleigh £260,000**

Three Bedroom Detached Chalet - Lounge 21'10 x 11'11 - Conservatory 12'5 x 9'2 - Kitchen With Oven Hob, Fridge Freezer And Dishwasher To Remain 15'0 x 7'9 - Bedroom One 15'2 x 10'2 >8'7 - Bedroom Two 11'11 x 10'5 - Ground Floor Bedroom Three/Dining Room 10'5 x 10'5 - Mainly Double Glazed - Gas Central Heating - Vacant - Keys Held For Accompanied Viewings - Sole Agents - Extremely Popular Location - Competitively Priced

Three Bedroom End Of Terrace House - Popular Location - Lounge 15'3 x 11'7 - Kitchen 9'7 x 8'9 - Dining Room 8'2 x 8'0 - Bedroom One 14'11 x 10'5 - Bedroom Two 10'2 x 8'11 - Bedroom Three 9'8 x 7'6 - Partly Double Glazed - Good Size Rear Garden - Easy Access Of Local Shops And Bus Routes - Sole Agents - Viewing Advised

**Westcliff-on-Sea £115,000**

One Bedroom Second Floor Apartment - Well Maintained Accommodation Throughout - Lounge 11'6 x 11'0 - Kitchen 11'0 x 5'4 With Oven And Hob To Remain - Bedroom 12'7 x 9'0 - Ensuite Bathroom - Vacant Possession - No Onward Chain - Convenient Location Within Easy Access Of Westcliff Station, Southend Sea Front, Hamlet Court Road And Southend Town Centre - Entry Phone System - Sole Agents - Viewing Advised

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Deceptively Spacious Detached Chalet - Lounge 13'0 x 12'11 - Sitting Room/Bedroom Four 10'2 x 9'11 - Kitchen/Diner 23'10 x 8'5 - Luxury Bathroom Suite 8'4 x 8'2 - Small Conservatory - Three First Floor Bedrooms - First Floor Shower Room - Double Glazed - Gas Central Heating - Sole Agents - Popular Cul De Sac Location - Viewing Advised

01702 555888

Hadleigh Office 01702 555 888
Rayleigh Office 01268 742 742

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**Rayleigh £289,950**

An attractive modern detached family house affording exceptionally spacious well planned living accommodation with the advantage of four good sized bedrooms, two separate reception rooms and an 80ft approx rear garden. Situated in this much sought after established residential area with close proximity of all local amenities including schools, shops and regular bus services to surrounding areas. The property requires some updating whilst offering enormous potential. No onward chain. Keys held.

01268 742 742

LETTINGS**Hadleigh £850 pcm**

Deceptively spacious three bedroom end house, situated within a convenient location benefiting from a modern kitchen, three good sized bedrooms & garage. Viewings strongly advised.

**Rayleigh £850 pcm**

Spacious three bedroom semi detached bungalow benefiting from a large rear garden. Situated in a sought after location, within walking distance to Rayleigh high street & King Georges playing fields. Internal viewings essential.

01702 555888

**Thundersley £625 pcm**

Deceptively spacious modern two bedroom first floor apartment offering parking & garage, close to Thundersley village centre. Available immediately.

01702 555888



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Hadleigh Office 01702 555 888
Rayleigh Office 01268 742 742

01702 470044

48 Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1AG

Fax: 01702 716956

Email: rvhall@btconnect.com

R. V. Hall & company



LEIGH-ON-SEA £199,995

viewing is essential to appreciate this outstanding three bedroom semi detached house, having been comprehensively refurbished throughout by the present owners, benefitting from off street parking, modern conservatory and contemporary decor throughout. ref:eh1496



LEIGH-ON-SEA £529,995

An imposing detached residence with a fully self contained one bedroom ground floor annexe, situated on the much sought after Marine Estate within walking distance to mainline station, broadway, and westleigh catchment area. ref:eh1495



LEIGH-ON-SEA £349,995

A deceptively spacious west backing four bedroom semi detached character house, offering a wealth of charm situated south of Leigh Road and therefore ideally located for Leigh on Sea mainline station, bars, restaurants and shopping facilities ref:eh1493



CHALKWELL £219,995

REDUCED A rare opportunity to purchase this ground floor seafront flat offering spacious lounge diner, off street parking, double glazing and extremely pleasant front aspect towards the estuary ideally located for station, town centre and beaches.



WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA £79,995

Situated in this popular purpose built block for the over 55's, a redeveloped and improved one bedroom first floor flat ideally located to local amenities benefitting from parking area to rear.



LEIGH-ON-SEA £279,995

We have pleasure in offering for sale this three bedroom semi detached house benefitting from garage, off street parking, en-suite to master bedroom and ground floor w.c. being situated in this convenient location within walking distance to broadway shops, bars and restaurants. No onward chain. ref:eh1489



BENFLEET £147,500

A spacious two bedroom ground floor flat, with modern decor throughout, benefitting from garage, off street parking and own rear garden. No onward chain.



WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA £219,995

An internal inspection is essential to fully appreciate this immaculate, substantial two double bedroom luxurious ground floor flat in this detached character building ideally located for mainline station and shops also benefitting from off street parking ref:eh1454

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01702 462626

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Fax: 01702 611299

Email: belle-vue@btconnect.com



SOUTHCHURCH PARK £229,995

STUNNING SEMI... In favoured location, absolutely outstanding two double bedroom house with loft/hobby room, fabulous fitted kitchen, conservatory, victoriana style bathroom, large garden, double glazing, gas c/h. Immaculate decor. Off street parking. Close to Southchurch Park, esplanade etc. Very highly recommended. ref: ebe2724



SOUTHEND £169,995

SUPER SEMI BUNGALOW... Good value two bedroom bungalow, backing west in popular area. Off street parking, double glazing, gas central heating, fitted kitchen. Easy access to shops, schools etc. Nice example, just reduced. Ref: ebe2564



ROCHFORD £1,250 PCM

PICTURESQUE PRESTIGE LOCATION... Backing farmland in private road, tastefully appointed 3 bedroom detached chalet with garage, 1000' unoverlooked garden. Immaculate order. Close to station, town centre etc. Very rare opportunity. Ref: ebe2710

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SOUTHCHURCH VILLAGE £156,500

DEFINITELY DECEPTIVE... 3 double bedroom cottage style house in popular area, close to shops and station. Double glazing, central heating, good decor, south backing garden. Early viewing advised. Ref: ebe2692



SOUTHEND £900 PCM

A SUPER SEMI... Immaculate three bedroom house in popular area close to airport. Loft room. Large garden. Utility room. Off street parking. Available from end of month. DSS with working guarantor only. Recommended. Ref: ebe2626



LITTLE WAKERING £194,995

BACKING WEST TO FARMLAND... Lovely extended two bedroom bungalow, much improved throughout. Double glazed, gas c/h, bathrm with shr cubicle, fit kitchen/brk room, off road parking, immaculate decor. Extensive farmland views. Ref: ebe2702



SOUTHEND £129,995

A PERFECT APARTMENT... With garage, spacious 2 bed f/f apartment. Large personal garden. Stunning kitchen and bathroom. Gas central heating, double glazing, central location. Lovely example. Must be viewed. Ref: ebe2717



ROCHFORD £895 PCM

BE QUICK... Attractive 3 bedroom semi backing west in King Edmund catchment. Modern kitchen nad bathroom, garage and parking. Close to station and town centre. Working applicants only. ref: ebe2725

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Landlord Question

My tenant is causing me trouble. Can I get possession quickly using the Accelerated Possession Procedure?

Think Property Answer

Once the fixed-term has ended and you have served a valid Section 21 Notice during the fixed term you can use the Accelerated Possession Procedure after the 2 months' notice period has ended. This may be necessary if the tenant refuses to leave voluntarily when the fixed term or the notice comes to an end.

The term "accelerated possession" is a bit of a misnomer as it can take several weeks or even months - the courts move slowly - but it is still quicker than a court hearing alternative.

The Assured Shorthold Tenancy must have started after 15th January 1989 and your claim must be for possession only, not rent arrears. All the documentation must be in order: a valid Tenancy Agreement and Section 21 Notice, which has expired.

You apply to your County Court in the same district as the property paying your fee and using the court form N5B supported by the documentary evidence - Tenancy Agreement and Section 21 Notice.

The tenant has 14 days after receiving the documents to file a defense. If the tenant does not file a defense and the paperwork is in order the judge will normally issue a possession order immediately on reviewing the case. There will not need to be a court hearing unless there is some problem with the documentation or the tenant requests postponement on hardship grounds, in which case possession can be delayed by up to 6 weeks. If the judge awards a possession order with immediate effect the tenant will be obliged to leave. If she refuses, you will need to pay another fee and apply for the services of the Court bailiff, which is likely to delay matters for another 2 weeks or so.

The total time taken depends upon the workload of your local county court. Some courts have backlogs.

Landlord Question

Is it a legal requirement to provide smoke alarms in my rental property?

Think Property Answer

The Building Regulations (1991) state that all properties built since June 1992 must be fitted with mains operated interlinked smoke detectors/alarms with at least one detector per floor level.

It is also the case that all Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are required to supply mains operated interlinked smoke alarm system.

In the case of older single family rental properties, technically there is no legal requirement for landlords to provide a smoke alarm. However, it is strongly recommended that landlords do provide at least a battery operated smoke alarm or alarms in their rented properties.

Where landlords do provide battery operated smoke alarms they should have a clause in the agreement making it clear that it is the tenant's responsibility to check their operation and replace the batteries as and when necessary.

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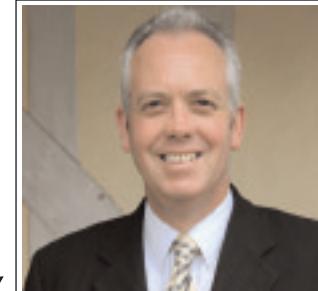
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ALAN KIRKMAN



Q. We are keen to sell but we don't want any time-wasters or nosy neighbours tramping through our house. How do we ensure that we only get people who are really serious about moving?

A. It's perfectly understandable that you don't want to waste your time with people who aren't serious about buying. Neither does your agent, by the way. Remember, he only gets paid when a property actually changes hands, so it's hardly in his interest to waste time and trouble arranging viewings for people who just fancy spending an afternoon nosing round someone else's home.

In this context, it's worth pointing out that thanks to the internet and all the wonders of online property marketing – which these days includes everything from 360-degree virtual tours and computer-generated 3D walkthroughs to Google Streetview – even a nosy neighbour can get a pretty good idea of what your home looks like and how it is situated, without going to the trouble of registering with an estate agent. Bear in mind in any case that it is a fundamental part of your agent's duty of care to you, his client that he will endeavour to ensure that he only sends you genuine prospective buyers. He certainly won't be handing out full particulars and contact details to any Tom, Dick or Harry who simply wanders in off the street and asks for them!

Nevertheless...the truth is that some people really do buy on impulse. Almost every agent you talk to will have stories of the most casual applicant turning into a genuine, committed buyer, once they see a property they really like at the right sort of price. Even the dreaded "nosy neighbour" has occasionally been known to buy the house next door.

What all this amounts to is this: normal vetting procedures aside, on balance it is probably not a good idea to try and impose too tight a limit on the number of prospective buyers viewing your home. This is particularly true in the current market, when buyers are already spoilt for choice.

So, trust, your agent to do any weeding out that's required. And remember, most agents will happily conduct viewings on your behalf, saving you the trouble. Indeed, many prefer to do so.

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road test



IMPRESSIVE:
Citroen have focused well on cabin quality.



ROOM: The Citroen has plenty of boot space.

Citroen's refreshing alternative

By Steve Wright

WE CAN all remember when Citroen introduced the C4 to the world. How could we forget that dancing car on TV? A long time has passed since then and Citroen have now provided a more efficient and refined family hatch back.

Toomey Citroen was kind enough to lend me their new model over the weekend.

I was driving the VTI 120 petrol model. This has a five-speed manual gearbox that boasts a top speed of 120 mph and 0 to 60 in

10.8 s - not bad for a family hatch. At first glance you're going to notice that Citroen have adopted a more conservative look to the car.

It's not as in your face as the previous model was but it has bulked out a bit to allow for a much larger boot, in fact the largest in its class. This makes trips to the shops a breeze.

Entertainment and in car tec has always been a big thing with the C4.

In the past they have always prided themselves with offering the latest safety features and in car tec. Well in this case Citroen have

gone all out to impress, the cabin quality inside is superb.

With a radio MP3 CD player you are not going to be bored inside here.

The panoramic sunroof lets in as much light as you want and if it's getting too bright just simply close using the electric sunblind.

Apart from the cruise control, ABS, EBD, ESP or any other three-lettered safety feature they can think of, one did prove to be very useful.

This is the emergency assistance system that is installed in the car. In the event of an accident just

push the button that's located above your head and it will alert the emergency services to your location using GPS tracking.

The system is free for the whole life of the vehicle and available 24-7 - how's that for peace of mind.

What impressed me most about the Citroen C4 was its driveability.

Shifting up through the gears is a breeze, the steering is light yet responsive, oh, and by the way, they have done away with the old steering wheel design.

This was where the wheel would move but the centre console of the steering wheel would stay still.

The C4 has been firmly placed along side the likes of the Ford Focus / VW Golf market. But with its bigger size and Citroen technology I'm sure it will offer a refreshing alternative.

To find out some of the many other options, I would recommend popping down to Toomey Citroen to test-drive one.

The new C4 prices start at £16,995 and for a car that has the look and offers this much technology you would be mad to over look it.

To book a test drive, call Toomey Citroen 01375 892300.

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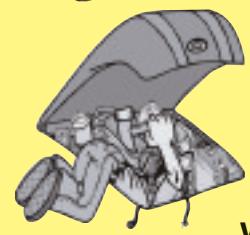


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Public Notices**THE BOROUGH OF SOUTHEND-ON-SEA****TRAFFIC SENSITIVE STREETS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Southend-on-Sea Borough Council proposes to designate certain streets as Traffic Sensitive under Section 53 and 64 of Part III of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and of all other enabling powers in accordance to the Act of 1991.

Therefore the Council intends to designate the following roads as a traffic sensitive street and thereby update the existing list and the National Street Gazetteer in accordance with the Act of 1991.

Traffic Sensitive Street	Days	Morning	Afternoon
Acacia Drive (all)			Delete from existing list
Bellhouse Road (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Belton Gardens (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Belton Way East (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Belton Way West (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Bridgewater Drive (all)			Delete from existing list
Broadway, Leigh (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Broadway West, Leigh (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Campfield Road (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Chalkwell Esplanade (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Chancellor Road (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Cherry Orchard Way	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Chichester Road (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Church Road, Southend Heygate Avenue to Chancery Road	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Cliff Gardens (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Cliff Parade (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Cranleigh Drive	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Deeping (all)			Delete from existing list
Eastern Avenue (all)	Everyday	7.30am to	7.00pm
Eastern Esplanade (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Eastwood Road (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Elm Road (Leigh) (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Emsleigh Drive (all)			Delete from existing list
Glenwood Avenue (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Grand Parade (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Heygate Avenue			
Chichester Road to Church Road	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Highfield Crescent	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Highfield Gardens	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
High Street, Southend (all)	Everyday	7.30am to	7.00pm
Leigh Hill (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Leigh Road (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
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New Road (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Poynters Lane (Bournes Green Chase to Star Lane)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Prince Avenue North (all)	Everyday	7.30am to	7.00pm
Priory Crescent (Prince Avenue to Eastern Avenue)	Everyday	7.30am to	7.00pm
Rectory Grove (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Royal Artillery Way (all)	Everyday	7.30am to	7.00pm
Smith Street (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
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The Fairway (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Thorpe Esplanade (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Thorpe Hall Avenue (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Victoria Avenue (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Waking Road (Sobey) (all)	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm
Western Esplanade	Mon-Fri	7.30 to 9.30am	3.30 to 7.00pm

The notice and the list of intended traffic sensitive streets proposed can be inspected at the Customer Service Centre at ground floor of the Civic Centre (address below) during from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and/or on Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's website.

Objections to the proposals, together with the grounds on which they are made, must be sent in writing to the Corporate Director of Enterprise Tourism & the Environment and marked for the attention of the Traffic Management & Road Safety Team at the address below by no later than 11 MARCH 2011.

All written representations received concerning these proposals are public documents that may be inspected by any person on demand.

R TINLIN

Chief Executive & Town Clerk

Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue,

Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6ER

Dated: 9 FEBRUARY 2011

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW PREMISES UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Applicant: Waitrose Ltd. Premises: Waitrose Store & Petrol Filling Station, Fossett Way, Eastern Avenue, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS2 4DQ. The application is: to permit the sale of alcohol & regulated entertainment (recorded music only) Monday to Sunday 0600 to 2300. Full details of which can be inspected on the application. The licensing register can be inspected at the address noted below during normal business hours. Any representations by an interested party or responsible authority regarding this application can be made to Southend on Sea Borough Safety & Licensing Section, Public Protection Service, Floor 12, Victoria Avenue, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 6ZG website: www.southend.gov.uk. This must be received by writing by 8 March 2011 clearly stating the grounds upon which representation is made relevant to the Licensing Act.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

Blake Lapthorn

Solicitors for Applicant

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United's charge to play offs halted by defeat to Shrews

Southend United

SOUTHEND United's mini-revival came to an end on Saturday as they suffered a 2-0 defeat at home to Shrewsbury.

A win would have put Paul Sturrock's men into the play off zone, but they were undone by returning old boy Matt Harrold.

The striker made one goal and scored the other as Shrewsbury moved closer to the automatic promotion spots.

The two sides exchanged chances in the opening stages of the game as Jon Taylor flashed over for the visitors and Ryan Hall dragged a shot wide for Southend, before Harrold was denied by a smart save from Rhys Evans.

These half chances continued, but the breakthrough came for the Shrews on 43 minutes.

Harrold set Taylor on his way as the visitors launched a counter-attack and the nippy winger powered forward and drove the ball

low beyond Evans.

It could have been two before half time, but Evans saved from Harrold's header.

The visitors looked comfortable after the interval and Harrold made it onto the scoresheet just after the hour mark.

The 26-year-old unleashed an unstoppable effort from just outside the box to cap an impressive return to Roots Hall.

Southend suffered a further blow when Bilel Mohsni was stretchered off with an ankle injury. Shrewsbury remained in control and played out for the win.

Boss Sturrock said: "I think we were beaten by the better team today. I also think we are a team and we do not have the individual players that will win football games for us.

"We have to be on top of our game as 11 players, and I felt there were several players off the pace and tempo."

The Blues travel to mid-table Accrington Stanley on Saturday.



BATTLE: Matchwinner Matt Harrold gets to grips with Bilel Mohsni. Picture by Dave Montier

Survival battle will go down to the wire – Grant

West Ham United

HAMMERS boss Avram Grant feels the battle for survival will go down to the wire after seeing his side return to the bottom of the table.

West Ham went down 1-0 to relegation rivals Birmingham City to put them 20th in the Premier League on goal difference. Wolves are level with them on 24 points, while Wigan and West Brom are two points ahead.

So close is the league this season,

that the Hammers are separated from eighth place Bolton by nine points.

Grant said: "It's the first game we have lost against a team which is near us, so it is not good and we are not so happy with this.

"It is the most interesting season there has been both at the top and the bottom. It will be a fight until the end of the season. I think there will be five or six teams in it."

In form Victor Obinna was at the heart of a lively start for the Irons,

with Robbie Keane also adding to the attack.

For Birmingham, it was David Bentley looking the most creative, although defender Roger Johnson came closest to scoring, but he headed over from Lee Bowyer's cross.

The game turned with the introduction of Seb Larsson into the City line up. The Swede, whose contract expires in the summer, crossed from the left for Serbian Nicola Zigic to nod home on 65 minutes.

With Larsson having replaced

Cameron Jerome, the visitors were already in a more defensive formation. Grant set out to attack more and brought on Carlton Cole and Demba Ba, the latter hitting the post with his first touch in the Claret and Blue.

West Ham pushed, but failed to create any clear cut chances for an equaliser.

West Ham could move out of the bottom three on Saturday if they beat West Brom. Wigan and Wolves, who are also in the drop zone, travel to Liverpool and Arsenal respectively.

City bounce back while Thurrock earn point

Non-League Football

A DOUBLE for Dave Rainford and Wayne Gray's first goal for Chelmsford City saw them brush aside Basildon in Blue Square South on Monday night with a 4-0 win.

The Clares have gone off the boil as of late and were looking to put behind them Saturday's disappointing 2-1 defeat to Havant & Waterlooville at the Melbourne Stadium.

All four goals came in the first half for City through Rob Edmunds (10), Rainford (19, 36 pen) and Gray (20).

Thurrock's decent run of form continued with a point at Staines Town on Saturday.

Richard Butler gave the hosts an early lead, but Fleet veteran Matt Bodkin equalised on 39 minutes.

AFC Hornchurch fell behind at Bury Town in Ryman League Premier after Sam Reed broke the deadlock with a 63rd minute free-kick.

However, the Urchins equalised through Duane Jackman after 80 minutes to dent Town's promotion hopes, despite having Tommy Black sent off in stoppage time.

Canvey Island remain in the play-off hunt, beating Hendon 4-1.

The visitors took the lead through a Jamie Busby penalty on 12 minutes, but were reduced to ten men when Daniel Sintim saw red after 32 minutes with Rob King scoring the resulting penalty.

Jay Curran put the Gulls 2-1 up 11 minutes after half-time, quickly followed by the sending-offs of both Hendons' Kevin McLaren and Michael Peacock to reduce the visitors to eight men.

Danny Heale scored from a free-kick to make it 3-1, with Leon Gordon completing the scoring in the last minute.

Billericay Town kept their play-off hopes alive with a 1-0 victory at Margate - Phil Anderson grabbing the winner in the 78th minute.

Concord Rangers' challenge took a hit following their 3-2 defeat at Tooting & Mitcham United.

Tony Stokes gave Concord a 16th minute lead which was quickly cancelled out by Jamie Byatt.

Gols from Sol Pinnock and Karl Beckford (pen) put Tooting 3-1 up at half-time, and with Ashley Miller pulling one back, Concord through they had levelled in the sixth minute of injury time, but Harry Elmes' goal

was ruled out for offside.

Relegation threatened Aveye lost 1-0 at promotion chasers Tonbridge Angels. Frankie Collin scored the only goal of the game in the 77th minute.

The title race in Ryman League Division One North is far from over following leaders Needham Market's defeat at Cheshunt.

Nearest challengers East Thurrock United closed the gap with a hard-fought 2-1 win over play-off chasers Waltham Abbey. Max Cornhill and a Joe Keith penalty put the Rocks in control but Steve Cawley's late goal for Abbey set up a tense finish.

Maldon & Tiptree look good for a play-off place after their 2-1 win over relegation battlers Tilbury.

Aaron Matthews cancelled out Joe Sweeney's first half goal for Maldon, but Ollie Berquez scored two minutes later with a spot-kick to restore Maldon's lead.

Romford move back into the play-offs with a 3-0 victory over Ware. Paul Kavanagh, Kurt Smith and Petriti Elbi scored for Boro, but both sides were down to ten-men before Elbi's goal, with Romford's Richard Oxby and Ware's Sam Berry seeing red.

Brentwood scored in the first and last minutes to beat Redbridge 2-0 through Ryan Doyle's penalty and Steve Butterworth.

Grays Athletic picked up a great 3-2 win at play-off hopefuls Potters Bar Town. Alex Osborn scored a double to put Grays 2-0, but Jose Espinoza's double levelled at half-time.

Josh Urquhart missed a penalty for Town in the 57th minute, and it proved crucial as Simon Thomas made sure of his penalty to give Grays the win.

Great Wakering Rovers' bad run continued, losing 3-1 at home to Enfield Town.

Dan Trenkel cancelled out Liam Hope's opener for Enfield, with Danny Forward restoring their lead.

Mitchel Stuart-Evans saw red for Wakering before Bryan Hammatt clinched the three points for Enfield.

Waltham Forest lost 2-1 at Heybridge Swifts. A Tom English penalty and Michael Toner put Swifts in control, despite Lukman Mojeed pulling one back for Forest.

Fellow relegation battlers Ilford lost 1-0 at Wingate & Finchley, with Ahmad Rifat scoring what proved to be the winner in the third minute.

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Rugby Union

Barking avoid banana skin, while Westcliff win at rivals

BARKING averted a shock result on Saturday to keep their unbeaten record in National League One.

The Eastenders hosted bottom club Launceston and found themselves behind twice in the match before regaining control to take the 27-16 win.

They now have a two point advantage over London Scottish who took a bonus point in their 3-40 win at Blaydon.

Westcliff won the crunch match in London One North at nearest rivals Sidcup.

Despite being down 19-18 at half-time, the runaway leaders took victory by 22-28.

Chingford failed to take advantage of Sidcup's loss, losing 16-10 at fourth place Colchester. Fifth place Thurrock won 0-15 at Brentwood, while Woodford loss 22-17 in their mid-table clash at Old Colfeians. Eton Manor won 18-3 over Ruislip.

Another crunch match saw Rochford Hundred come out on top against Braintree in London Two North East.

Hundred won 27-12 over their nearest rivals to give themselves a six point lead at the top.

Romford & Gidea Park keep a watching brief in third following their 51-10 victory over Saffron Walden, while Chelmsford's superb run of form continued, winning 14-27 at Canvey Island.

Basildon kept up the chase of leaders Lowestoft & Yarmouth in London Three North East. They beat bottom side Wisbech 17-10, but the gap was extended to five points after Lowestoft won 27-56 at Upminster.

South Woodham Ferrers beat Wymondham 36-26 while Campion lost 11-13 to third place Norwich.

Motorsport

Team prepares for season

A MOTOR racing team from Essex is gearing up for its second season in the UK's top saloon car championship.

AmD Milltek Racing, based in West Thurrock, will be contesting in the Dunlop MSA British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) in a Volkswagen Golf, with owner and driver, Shaun Hollamby behind the wheel.

The 2011 version of the car was unveiled at last month's Autosport International show in Birmingham, where it was displayed on the stand of sponsor Milltek.

A full rebuild has been undertaken since the team's debut season last year, which saw the team try and develop the car to get on the pace of the leading pack. Their season was hampered by a relative lack of power from their two-litre normally aspirated engine.

However, taking advantage of new regulations in the BTCC for 2011, the car will have a two-litre turbo-charged unit, which should boost power output and level the playing field.

Hollamby said: "We were about 50 horsepower down on the top teams last year so the turbo engine will bring us back up to what everybody else has got.

"We also have the benefit of a season's development and data, so we won't be starting from scratch at every round. I have a feeling we could cause a few surprises in the pack!"

Hollamby feels he has also benefitted from competing in the BTCC. "My driving came on massively last season!" he said. "It's a big step up from any championship to the BTCC and it's really a dog eat dog world. When you're driving with some of the best touring car drivers in the world, it can't fail to rub off."

AmD Milltek Racing's VW Golf is scheduled for a shakedown at Brands Hatch in early March, ahead of the BTCC's Media Day and official test session at Silverstone on March 24. The 2011 British Touring Car Championship kicks off at Brands Hatch on April 2/3, with all races being shown live on ITV4.